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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-016
Wednesday
25 January 1995

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-016 *25 January 1995*

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Mediterranean Countries Meet Te Discuss Security

Morocco Withdraws From Meeting

LD2101011795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today [21 January], Tunisia hosts a meeting of interior ministers of seven Mediterranean countries to discuss a security strategy in the Mediterranean. The meeting was to be attended by Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, France, Italy, and Portugal [six countries listed as heard] but on the eve of the meeting, Morocco announced its refusal to take part in the meeting. A spokesman for the Moroccan Foreign Affairs Ministry said that Morocco will not take part in the meeting without giving any clarifications. A Moroccan official at the ministry said that the aim of the meeting did not concern Morocco.

'First of Its Kind' Conference Opens

LD2101145095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first conference of interior ministers of the western basin of the Mediterranean was inaugurated in Tunis this morning under the chairmanship of the Abdallah Kallel, Tunisian minister of state for the interior.

The interior ministers of Tunisia, Algeria, France, Italy, and Portugal and the Spanish secretary of state for the interior are participating in this conference, which is known as the conference of the 4 plus 3.

This meeting, which is the first of its kind, is within the framework of dialogue and consultation in order to bolster cooperation in the fields of security, stability, and the consolidation of joint efforts, especially with regard to confronting organized crime, terrorism, fanaticism, and extremism in all its forms and to combating drugs and other phenomena that threaten the stability of the countries of the region. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that the opening session of this conference began with a welcoming speech by Kallel, who conveyed to those present the greetings and feelings of esteem of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, as well as his great interest in this important meeting. The minister of state expressed Tunisia's pride in playing host to this conference, because it aims to make the Mediterranean a lake of security and peace and a bridge for the bolstering of the friendship ties between its peoples and strengthening the relations of cooperation and economic and social development between its countries.

After lauding the response of the participating governments with this proposal, Mr. Kallel addressed his counterparts and said that dangerous and organized crime, which goes beyond the border of states, is a tangible reality; it is a danger to all. This phenomenon is fed on economic crises, social differences, rampant unemployment, and phenomena of fanaticism and extremism.

The minister of state ended his speech by stressing that terrorism and crime know no frontier and that joint issues and threats require unified solutions and responses, which is the purpose for holding such a conference.

Meeting Ends; Declaration Passed

LD2101224095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ministers of interior in countries of the western Mediterranean basin have concluded the meetings of their conference this evening in Tunis. In a news conference following the end of the meeting, Mr. Abdallah Kallel, the minister of state and minister of interior, who was accompanied by his Algerian, French, Portuguese, and Spanish counterparts, as well as Italy's ambassador to Tunisia, reviewed the outcome of the meeting that he described as very positive, particularly that the meeting led to an agreement on the issues on the agenda.

Mr. Abdallah Kallel then read out the declaration passed by the meeting under the name the Tunis Declaration. The declaration reads that the meeting was an occasion to hold a comprehensive assessment of the problems and preoccupations of the countries concerned, taking into particular account the serious violations of security in this region. The interior minister noted with satisfaction the common will of the countries taking part in the meeting to do everything that will preserve the numerous and valuable ties linking countries on both shores of the western Mediterranean basin.

In particular, the ministers decided to boost the exchange of information and cooperation on bilateral and multilateral levels. The declaration goes on to say that when exchanging points of view regarding the increase of various forms of crimes, drug, and arms smuggling, and issues related to illegal immigration, all participants had noted and warned of the danger of the noticeable increase of these phenomena and their increased association with terrorism and extremism which resorts to these means.

According to the declaration, the participants reviewed the internal dangers threatening their countries and the stability in countries of the western Mediterranean basin. They officially condemned terrorism, extremism, and all forms of fanaticism and called for a halt to violence, because social and economic development could only be achieved in an atmosphere of civic peace.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Quadripartite Summit To Be Held on Border Issues

MM2301170095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr: "Contacts To Hold Quadripartite Summit in Riyadh, To Include Salih"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, London, AL-HAYAH—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, and the delegation accompanying him have begun talks in Riyadh with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, and senior Saudi officials to ensure a nonrepetition of the recent border clashes and to return matters to normal between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

AL-HAYAH has learned from authoritative Arab sources in London that high-level Arab contacts are being made to hold a quadripartite summit in Saudi Arabia within the coming few days, bringing together Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The sources said that the aim of the summit is to consolidate a final Saudi-Yemeni agreement on the 1934 al-Ta'if border agreement between the two countries, the demarcation of the rest of the Saudi-Yemeni border, and the restoration of normal relations between Riyadh and Sanaa.

The sources revealed that the aim of the visit to Riyadh by the House of Representatives speaker and the delegation accompanying him is to prepare a Saudi-Yemeni agreement on the foundations for resolving the the border question between the two countries—an agreement based on recognition of the 1934 al-Ta'if border agreement, the demarcation of the undemarcated eastern border, and the restoration of former joint cooperation frameworks between the two countries, especially the Joint Saudi-Yemeni Committee, headed from the Yemeni side by the prime minister and from the Saudi side by Prince Sultan. [passage omitted]

Jordan Said To Support Egypt, Syria on Nuclear Issue

JN2501091095 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo: "Jordan Pledges To 'Rationalize' Normalization With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab sources in Cairo have disclosed to AL-YAWM that during his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in al-'Aqabah on 21 January, King Husayn of Jordan pledged support for the positions of Egypt and Syria on the issue of nuclear nonproliferation in the Middle East. Israel refuses to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In addition, Jordanian officials have promised to do all they can to support the position of the other Arab parties, which are still negotiating with Israel. Jordan will do this by rationalizing normalization with Israel as long as full peace between the Arabs and Israel is not achieved and until the future of Jerusalem is secured and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is achieved.

League Chief: Libyan Stance on Lockerbie Fully 'Legal'

NC2301200695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that Libya's position on the Lockerbie crisis is one hundred percent right from the legal point of view.

In a statement today, he said the Libyan-Arab League offer to resolve the crisis is based on a legal rule—namely, that the two Libyan suspects should be tried in the country where the incident took place.

He said the Western countries had rejected the offer and demanded that the two Libyans be handed over. He said the French position is less sharp than the American and British positions.

He said international law does not stipulate that a country hand over its nationals to another country unless the two countries are bound by an agreement or a treaty to extradite criminals.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid hoped that the Western countries would respond favorably to the Libyan position.

Director Says Arabsat To Launch 2 More Satellites

JN2401204295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Sa'd 'Abd-al-'Aziz, director of the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, Arabsat, has stated that the organization is currently manufacturing two satellites, in addition to the Arabsat satellite, in order to meet possible demands for Arab space channels over the next few years. The overall cost of the two satellites is $300 million. The first satellite will be placed in orbit in the middle of next year.

In a statement to the newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ issued here today, 'Abd-al-'Aziz said that the current operating capacity of the first generation Arabsat is 18 channels, including national and private channels. He said the second generation of Arabsat will include channels from Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Qatar, and Sudan and the transmission power will be high.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 17 Jan

NC2101211095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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7. Scholar on Injustice of Western World, Need for Islam

WRITER'S CONTINUED DETENTION STIRS MORE REACTION

The newspaper continues to give prime coverage to the detention of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. A 700-word lead story by Khalid Yunus on page 1 reports that "the Supreme State Security Prosecution next Thursday [19 January] will consider the release of 'Adil Husayn, who is detained in connection with the case of the alleged envelope." The report notes that the defense panel submitted several memoranda to the prosecutor general, affirming the inadmissibility of Husayn's remand in custody on the charge of "attempted publication of statements that arouse hatred for the regime." The defense filed a lawsuit contesting the remand decision and arguing that it is in violation of Article 41 of the Constitution, which prohibits the restriction of citizens' freedom.

Several other reports and articles take up the same issue to voice rejection of Husayn's detention. The newspaper's first page features a number of such reports, including a 150-word report saying that "11 trade union heads in Jordan have condemned the imprisonment of writer 'Adil Husayn... and denounced the inhumane treatment of the writer in spite of his bad health." A 100-word report on the same page says that a delegation of trade union representatives, led by the head of the Physicians Association, will meet with the prosecutor general to discuss 'Adil Husayn's case. An 80-word report by Jamal Imbabi says that an expanded conference will be held in Paris on 1 February to voice solidarity with Husayn. Another 150-word report cites a statement by the secretary general of the General Federation of Arab Authors and Writers, in which he denounces Husayn's detention and maltreatment and appeals to the president of the Republic to release him "immediately." Meanwhile, reporters continue their sit-in at the Press Association headquarters to protest Husayn's continued detention, an unattributed 100-word report on the same page says.

A 250-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 6 says that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi gave orders during a seminar he held at the book fair to "evict all reporters opposed to 'Adil Husayn's detention from the hall to prevent them from raising the issue of the detention and persecution of the writer." The report adds that "the public were prevented from attending. Only those carrying detective or police identification cards were allowed to attend." Moreover, the report adds, "prepared questions were distributed among the security forces, who played the role of the public, to submit them to the minister."

Page 3 features four reports on the same issue. In a 1,500-word report, Subhi Buhayri gives an account of a rally held by nationalist powers in Alexandria on 12 January to voice solidarity with Husayn. Speaking at the rally, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri pointed out that Husayn was imprisoned "because he said no to Zionism and normalization, to the selling of the public sector, to the American imperialist hegemony on our resources, and to the failing policies that have sunk the country in a quagmire of debts and subordination". Shukri appealed to all the honest and sincere people to spare no effort to "unmask the imperialist schemes being hatched outside and the regime's corruption inside." He stressed that "we have to organize our ranks to stand up to this corrupt government." He pointed out that the obstruction of the law and the emergency measures cause more instability, stressing that "all should unite in the face of America, who substituted our popular foods with American-made foods, and in the face of Israel, which wants to have the upper hand in the region."

Speaking at the same rally, "preacher" Wajdi Ghunaym said that Husayn was detained "only because he told the truth in an age where the truth is scarce, in a country that honors belly dancers and corrupt people and imprisons anyone who tries to defend this nation's identity in the face of the destructive and misleading campaigns."

Muhammad 'Id, member of the Supreme Panel of the Wafd Party, said "we are living through an ordeal while the world is being run by America and Israel, who harbor hostility toward us as Arabs and Muslims." He adds that "the Israeli prime minister was insolent enough to declare that war is coming. However, they received him like a hero in all Arab capitals, while 'Adil Husayn was sleeping on the floor in a solitary cell. His only crime is that he was opposed to those who harbor nothing but hostility for us."

A 1,000-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on the same page gives an account of a similar rally the Labor Party held in al-Mahallah. Among other speakers, Labor Party Executive Committee member Major General Tal'at Muslim argued that Husayn's case is not one of imprisonment, but "attempted murder."

A 700-word unattributed report on page 3 talks about a seminar at the Labor Party headquarters in Madinat al-Nasr. Speaking at the seminar, Labor Party Deputy Chairman Dr. Hilmi Murad denounced Husayn's maltreatment by the authorities, stating that a reporter is "entitled to seek information and papers anywhere." Murad called on the people to come out of their silence and tell the truth.

The fourth report on page 3, a 1,000-word unattributed report, cites Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, who said

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during a seminar at the book fair that "all 'Adil Husayn's moves are being put on audiovisual tape" in his cell.

Reacting to that remark, different lawyers state that the procedure is illegal, since it should have been done with a judge's permission and after the charges had been proved. Among those cited are Counselor Yahya al-Rifa'i; Counselor Kamal al-Matini; 'Aliy-al-Din Salih, lawyer and leader of Young Egypt Party; Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association; and thinker and writer Dr. Muhammad 'Asfur.

Labor Party Deputy Chairman Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad notes in a 3,000-word article on page 5 that President Mubarak asked the interior minister at a seminar on the sidelines of the book fair to answer questions by angry writers and reporters about the continued detention of 'Adil Husayn. Unfortunately, Murad says, he did not try to justify or apologize for the excesses, opting to totally deny all that has been said and published by newspapers and stating that "it is all lies."

Murad points out that a statement by "an official security source" described the writers, party figures, and reporters who denounced the insults against and the maltreatment of 'Adil Husayn as "irrational and hired." He states that this remark is an act of public slander punishable by law.

He then cites Article 42 of the Constitution—which entitles every citizen who is arrested or whose freedom is restricted to humane treatment that respects his dignity—and shows how Husayn's dignity was harmed and his rights violated.

The party deputy chairman then reacts to the interior minister's statement, in which he said that "all Husayn's moves are being put on audiovisual tape." He states that this procedure was an assault against a citizen's personal life without his knowledge, "a crime punishable by Article 309 of the Penal Code," Murad explains. He notes also that taping Husayn's meeting with his lawyer is a violation of his right to defense as stipulated in Article 69 of the Constitution. He remarks that the Interior Ministry statements "provoke the public and create an atmosphere of resentment and lack of sympathy with the authorities."

Murad wonders if Husayn's detention was because of the "bastard envelope" or because of other articles he wrote. He finally calls for reviewing the reprimand decision.

Jamal al-Banna writes about Husayn's detention and maltreatment in a 1,500-word article entitled "The Regime in the Devil's Grip" on page 7. He believes that Husayn's detention is "unwarranted," since he would not escape. He notes that this approach, which is also adopted in fighting terrorism, only widens the gap between the people and the government and encourages the people to distrust the government. He explains that this policy was first adopted in 1954, when the government wanted to suppress the opposition. He then gives an account of the maltreatment political prisoners used to get at the hands of the authorities.

An unattributed 2,000-word report on page 6 gives an account of a rally held by the Labor Party Secretariat in al-Daqahliyah.

Addressing the rally, Ibrahim Shukri spoke about Husayn's detention and the "frame-up" prepared for him by the police, noting that his detention was designed to "restrict the party's movement and affect its performance in the upcoming elections."

Shukri appealed to the youth to "hold on to their rights and insist on participation in the elections until the embargo imposed on the people is lifted."

He then talked about price hikes, criticizing the expenditure of millions on sports events and film festivals while thousands are unemployed. He remarked that ministers own cars valued at a million pounds each, while the majority of the people do not find free education or health services.

Shukri noted that the interior minister's remark that 'Adil Husayn's moves are being taped is an admission that "he does not respect the law."

He then said that Israel has once again made it clear to the world "that it does not want anything good for Egypt." He called for boycotting Zionist and American goods and demanded that the people be sensitized to resist normalization.

He finally called for "looking toward the south" [toward Sudan], noting that this is the right course.

Another item related to the issue is a statement on page 12, signed by some 300 persons of different professions. The statement appears under 'Adil Husayn's photograph, which occupies more than half the page. The 250-word statement expresses concern at developments in Husayn's case. It notes that the measures taken against the secretary general of a legitimate opposition party are "a blatant violation of the democratic experience and the multiparty system, which only benefits the enemies of democracy and the groups that adopt armed violence and threaten the nation's stability."

The statement adds that these practices "restrict journalists' right to seek information and express their views freely."

It stresses that "the challenges facing the nation at present call for expanding the scope of democracy and freedom of expression, things that rationalize the political decision and give the Egyptian stronger negotiating power."

The statement finally appeals to the president to intervene and release 'Adil Husayn "to curb the repercussions of these practices that are hostile to the freedom of expression, democracy, and the multiparty system."

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JOURNALIST VIEWED AS WEAPON IN CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL, AMERICA

Page 10 features a 3,000-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar, in which he uses President Mubarak's meeting with thinkers and journalists on the sidelines of the book fair as an introduction to his main argument that 'Adil Husayn's release is for the public good, since the man is "one of the weapons in the confrontation with Israel and America."

Dr. 'Umar points out that Mubarak was "firm" in his reply to a question on Rabin's all-out war threats, although he refrained from answering questions on 'Adil Husayn's continued detention, opting to defer the matter to the interior minister. He notes that the official media elaborated on the first matter, writing a "few lines" about the second, despite its importance.

The writer contends that the two issues, Rabin's threats and Husayn's detention, are linked. "If Yitzhaq Rabin is threatening war and claiming that he is capable of waging an all-out war against all Arabs, 'Adil Husayn's case is in the center of the side the Israeli threat was meant for, namely, the Arab and Islamic side." He explains that the Arab side is engaged in battles against Israel, which is armed with the most sophisticated weapons, and that the only way to make up for the technological difference is to "mobilize the weapons of thought and creed."

Citing the reports Israeli papers published about experts' "recommendations to punish Egypt for its negative policy," Dr. 'Umar notes that these statements were made after a series of steps the Egyptian diplomacy started to take after the Islamic summit in November. Of these steps, he cites the tripartite summit, Egypt's refusal to sign the nonproliferation treaty, attempts to clarify the Arab climate, and the review of some privatization policies. He explains that "all this is in the context of preparations, or at least advance deterrence of any potential attempt on Israel's side, whether an all-out war against an Arab country (Syria is the probable target) or an air aggression against nuclear installations in an Islamic state (Iran is the probable target)."

He maintains that the political atmosphere is now being heated up as a precaution against any contingency. Therefore, he adds, it is illogical to keep the "Arab arsenal of thought" threatened by incidents like Husayn's detention. He notes that Husayn is known for his "strictness" of views against Israel and America and his belief in the need to mobilize the people to defend their country. He therefore believes that Husayn is "one of the weapons needed for the confrontation with Israel and America."

Dr. 'Umar maintains that signing agreements between Israel and any Arab state "does not mean that the intellectual and political effort to defend Palestine and Arabs and attack Israel is no longer needed, since the Arab-Israeli conflict will continue and escalate in the intellectual and cultural aspects," thus moving "from the military to a nonmilitary arena."

The writer notes that the "fantasy" of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict is fading, particularly in Egypt. He maintains that the Israelis "not only want us to change our political stances, but they want us to forget our history and turn our backs on it at the official and popular levels." He adds that Israel knows that "agreements at the official level will not guarantee its security and that these agreements will not force Arabs and Muslims to love it." That is why he believes Israel is alarmed by every word an Arab writer or thinker writes, particularly those who rely on an Islamic foundation.

He notes that 'Adil Husayn "played an outstanding role in giving prominence to the enlightened Islamic current that is opposed to fanatic extremism and which seeks change through peaceful methods." He therefore believes that it is in the "public interest" to end his detention.

He finally says that it is important to benefit from the efforts of 'Adil Husayn and his peers to build bridges with the powers that are adversaries of the Egyptian political power inside and outside Egypt within the Islamic framework. He remarks that this will "deter America and Israel" and mobilize and immunize the Arab and Muslim masses.

REPORT SAYS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CRISIS ESCALATING

In his 800-word report on page 1, Mahmud Bakri writes that "tension escalated recently in Egyptian-Israeli relations when a number of Israeli military commanders demanded that firm measures be taken against Egypt. They called for quick steps to carry out the recommendations of the Israeli Foreign Ministry document, which helped aggravate the crisis in the past few days and involved measures to punish Egypt."

According to the report, the military leaders do not want to wait until Egyptian-Israeli talks are held to "assess the Egyptian negative policies toward peace with Israel."

At a meeting held recently to discuss the document, the military leaders stressed that "Israel should be strong in its reply, since it takes the credit for enhancing Egypt's status in the peace process."

Leaked to an Israeli newspaper, the document recommended that Egypt be "punished for its negative policy. It also called for cutting U.S. aid, freezing visits to Egypt by Israeli officials, regarding Egypt as a second-rate state in its relations with Israel, refraining from holding Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on Egyptian territories, insisting on putting the Nile River waters on the agenda of the multilaterals, as well as suspending all joint economic projects with Egypt."

WRITER URGES SETTING BALANCE RIGHT WITH ISRAEL

In a 2,000-word article on page 2, Majdi Ahmad Husayn hails 'Amr Musa's "sharp" remarks in reaction to Israel's

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"all-out war" threats, although he believes that the crisis with Israel has to do with the nature of the "Zionist entity" and should not be restricted to "the diplomatic framework." He believes that "these sharp remarks will not shift the balance of power between us and the Israeli enemy," and notes that the problem now lies "not only in the military imbalance between us and Israel, but in the strategic imbalance as well."

Husayn states that Rabin's remarks about an all-out war "are not a slip of the tongue, but a well-prepared strategy that is being pursued under a shameful blackout in the official media." He finds it odd that a government writer should "finally" realize that Israel views peace as a mere truce, noting that "noncomprehensive" war with Israel has not stopped for a moment since al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977. To explain, he points out that Israeli warplanes have raided south Lebanon several times and that its war machine has continued to strike in Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, and occupied Palestine, in addition to the "indirect Israeli role" in northern Iraq, south Sudan, and Bosnia.

Touching on Israel's nuclear power, he notes that Israel owns "200 nuclear weapons and missiles that can reach 12 Arab states." As for conventional weapons, "Israel now has 740 fighter planes, including 200 F-16's," he says.

He notes that while U.S. military assistance to Israel grows, the annual military assistance to Egypt has not exceeded $1.3 billion in the past eight years, in spite of the sharp increase in the cost of military equipment.

Above all, he notes, "Israel has launched three satellites and is getting ready to launch the fourth, which will be used for direct military spying purposes." Meanwhile, the Egyptian Government is just thinking of launching a satellite "for television purposes," he notes.

The writer states that our conflict with Israel is a comprehensive conflict of civilization which has its military, economic, scientific, and cultural aspects, in addition to its popular dimensions, or "mobilizing the masses for it." If the current imbalance shifts to Israel in most of these aspects, setting the balance of power right is the only way to restore normalcy, Husayn says.

Touching on the cultural aspect of the conflict, Husayn notes the absence of Egyptian state-backed research centers that study Zionism and Israel, while "Israel—through its academic center in Cairo and others of course—tunes in to everything that goes on in Egypt, even novels, poetry, and history books." In this context, he welcomes plans by al-Ahram Strategic Studies Center to republish special studies on what is being published in Israel. He believes, however, that this should be undertaken in the framework of a "tight strategy" adopted by the government.

Touching on the "popular aspect," he notes that the rulers have strived to bring up generations that know neither their enemy nor themselves, by promoting the idea that the October 1973 war was the last war and by changing school curricula to hide any present or past conflict with Israel.

When it comes to the technological aspect, Husayn cites the example of South Korea, which established a state-sponsored scientific and technological institute and imposed strict restrictions on the import of technology. He also cites the Indonesian experience that transferred funds from forest development to airplane manufacture. Indonesia is now competing with Spain in a tender to sell aircraft to the U.S. Army, Husayn notes, wondering where Egypt stands in all this.

He trusts that the country is capable of turning darkness into light and defeat to victory if it has the will to change. He cites an article by Mustafa Amin, in which he called for "urgently settling the differences between us and Iran, Iraq, and Sudan" in reaction to Rabin's all-out war threat.

Concurring with Mustafa Amin, he calls also for "reconciling with the Egyptian people" to face the Israeli challenge, since diplomatic statements are not enough for the Egyptian, Arab, and Muslim man to live on.

He states in conclusion that whether 'Adil Husayn is released or not, "we will continue to stand by him against Israel."

MB DEPUTY GUIDE DEPLORES PEACE WITH 'ZIONISTS'

Addressing those "Who Establish Relations With the Zionist Enemy", Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, MB, expresses surprise in his 2,000-word article on page 5 that "some Arab and Islamic states are thronging to establish diplomatic ties with the Zionist entity despite its vanity and arrogance." He wonders if this happens out of fear from the Israelis or compliance with American directions.

Stating that the "Zionist scheming" has continued since the age of Prophet Muhammad, he maintains that ending the Arab boycott of Israel and treating it as a friendly state is tantamount to throwing Arab people "into the teeth of a ferocious, corrupt predator." He warns Arab rulers who do this that "their people will turn against them and that future generations will curse them," asking them whether they have consulted their people before doing that.

Referring to Rabin's recent statements about "getting ready for an all-out war," Mashhur asks if Arab states have wondered "who, other than Arabs, would be the target of such a war." He affirms that Rabin's statements are "not bluffing, but a real threat that should be taken seriously."

He stresses that it is a "religious and national duty" not to be deceived by what the Israelis call peace, because it means "imposing submission one time by force and

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coercion and another by trickery and deception." He admires President Mubarak's announcement that Egypt will not sign the Nonproliferation Treaty until Israel does, adding that it is the duty of all Arab and Muslim states to do the same.

Mashhur emphasizes that Arab and Islamic states should eliminate their differences and "seriously seek to develop unity vis-a-vis that imminent danger." He adds that "no Arab or Islamic state should conclude an agreement with the enemy. The states who already did that should abrogate the agreements, if the enemy persists in its expansionist policy." He believes that Arab and Islamic governments should restore the confidence of their people, hold free elections that truly represent the people, "or else the people will be dissatisfied with their government's conduct toward the enemy, and some cases of instability might exist between them."

The writer stresses that Arab governments should not ignore their Muslim people's "right to defend Palestine and the al-Aqsa Mosque," noting that it is "unacceptable to give some Palestinians and Arab rulers the sole right to handle this central Islamic issue."

Mashhur says that "Zionists" have succeeded in convincing America, the West, and some Arab rulers that Islam and Islamic fundamentalism equal violence, terrorism, and extremism. "If a few Muslim youth have resorted to violence as a result of strong pressures, suppression of freedom, unemployment and other problems, this does not mean that Islam and all Muslims should be associated with terrorism and extremism." He believes that the real causes must be treated after due consideration and not by violence, which "only begets more violence." "We do not believe in violence and terrorism; we promote Islam wisely through good counselling," he says, adding that "Zionists are the root of terrorism and extremism."

Addressing "the global enemies of Islam," Mashhur says that they were so conceited with their material power that they have waged wars against Muslims all over the world. He contends that these wars will further consolidate the Islamic creed and inspire the people to forbear and eventually turn the tables against the aggressors.

He calls on Islamic people to demand a proper stance from their governments regarding the tragedies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, and other Islamic states instead of contenting themselves with "denunciations." He believes that this should start with "boycotting the products of enemies like Russians, the West, Zionists, and all those who help the enemy."

He urges the people "not to normalize things with the enemies, particularly the Jews, because it will only bring corruption, vice, and defeat."

SCHOLAR OPPOSES FATWA ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL

In a 1,500-word article on page 2, Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi declares that he disagrees with Saudi Mufti Bin-Baz' in his fatwa on peace with Israel, the fatwa that a custodian of people's affairs "may sign a truce if he sees benefit in this."

Conceding that "the error in the shaykh's fatwa is not in the statutory ruling... but in applying this ruling to reality," he explains that Bin-Baz built his ruling on two points: that a ruler may seek peace with the enemy if the enemy pursues a peaceful approach; and that a truce, both temporary and absolute, is permissible in shari'ah.

Refuting the first point, al-Qaradawi shows that the Jews "did not pursue a peaceful approach." On the contrary, the Jews "usurped the land, shed blood, displaced the people, and unlawfully expelled people from their homes."

To refute the second point, al-Qaradawi explains that what happened between the Palestinians and Jews "was not just a truce... It is an admission that the land they usurped with iron and fire, and whose millions of owners they displaced, has become legally their own."

He concludes that "a usurper is not pursuing a peaceful approach until he returns what he usurped to the original owners; and, recognizing the usurpers' sovereignty on the lands they pillaged is not the truce jurists deemed permissible."

SCHOLAR ON INJUSTICE OF WESTERN WORLD, NEED FOR ISLAM

In his 350-words weekly column "This Is Our Religion" on page 10, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali talks of America's and the West's celebration of Christmas with a feeling that "the 20th century's sunset is near at hand." He believes that the Western world "has not risen to the level of Christianity" where Christ is a symbol of peace, and "has taken the road to aggression and hostilities instead."

He notes that Christian missionaries were very active in Africa. "But what did the dark continent—as they called it—gain? Ten million AIDS cases," he remarks. He refers to the "series of injustice against Muslims" by those who brag about human rights and respect for religions.

Showing that European and Western imperialists did nothing for the people they occupied, al-Ghazali states that "all Europe knows of Christianity is that it provides cover for its forbidden desires."

Noting that Islam came to take religion back to its origins and suppress arrogance and corruption, he says that the forefathers disciplined ancient Europeans and stopped their injustice. He believes that the world needs "Muhammad's sword now more than ever to rescue those crying for help and show justice to the oppressed."

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Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to U.S. Decision on 'Terrorist' Groups Assets

'Arafat Welcomes Clinton Decision

TA2501054695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed President Clinton's decision to freeze the assets of terrorist organizations and said that he had expected such a decision for a long time.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian security services in the Gaza Strip last night detained four senior Islamic Jihad leaders, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who was detained for the second time. A senior source in the Palestinian police said that the hunt for those who sent the terrorists to the Hasharon junction continues. The Palestinian police believe that the two terrorists responsible for the bombing had received aid from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Judaea and Samaria. A Palestinian source told our correspondent that the Gaza Strip police detained two Hamas terrorists who had planned an attack at the settlement of Dugit in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas Leader: Freeze Not To Weaken Movement

TA2501090495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, said that President Clinton is mistaken if he thinks that a freeze on assets will weaken his organization. He said that the organization depends on its supporters in the territories and that they are the source of its strength.

Binyamin Kahana said at a news conference in New York that the Kahana Hay organization's total funds in the United States stand at $2 million. He noted that most of the funds his organization has in the United States are out of reach of the authorities.

The spokesman for the outlawed Kakh movement told our correspondent Gil Litman that he has documents proving that the Foreign Ministry lobbied in Washington in recent months to get the movement's offices in the United States closed down.

The security forces last night detained an Islamic Jihad activist in the Tulkarm area, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports. Palestinian sources yesterday reported the detention of dozens of Hamas activists on Sunday and Monday.

Hamas' Ghawshah Condemns Decision

NC2501113395 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Jan 25 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Wednesday [25 January] condemned Washington's decision to freeze the US assets of 12 extremist groups, saying the move would cut off funds for cash-strapped Palestinians.

The movement's official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AFP here the US move was aimed against the Palestinian people, and warned that Washington had put itself in the position of "an adversary of the Islamic nation."

"The freeze will cut off aid earmarked for the bereaved families of Palestinian detainees and martyrs as well as for schools run by charities and orphanages," he said.

US President Bill Clinton called Tuesday for a global effort to fight terrorism after Islamic Jihad said it sent two suicide bombers from Gaza to kill 19 Israelis Sunday.

Clinton froze the US assets of 12 extremist groups and 18 individuals seen as foes of Middle East peace.

Among those targeted were Islamic Jihad, the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, Hizballah, Hamas and two Jewish organizations—Kach and Kahane Chai.

Ghawshah warned PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat against any crackdown on HAMAS militants following the suicide bombing near Netanya Sunday.

He urged 'Arafat to reject Israel's calls for militants to be tracked down in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Palestinian police called senior Islamic Jihad leaders in for questioning on Tuesday. Police in the Gaza Strip said around a dozen fundamentalists had been detained, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, a prominent leader of Jihad.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had urged 'Arafat to take firm action against Palestinian extremists after the bombing.

Ghawshah also warned 'Arafat not to let Israeli agents hunt Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip, noting that the "repercussions of the Palestine mosque massacre are still being felt."

Fifteen Palestinian demonstrators were killed and more than 200 injured in clashes with Palestinian police on November 18 as they left a mosque in the Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad Says Decision 'Futile'

NC2501113095 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 25 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad group Wednesday [25 January] denied having any assets in the United States and accused US President Bill Clinton of mounting "a crusade against Arabs and Moslems."

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Clinton called Tuesday for a global effort to fight terrorism after Islamic Jihad said it sent two suicide bombers from Gaza to kill 19 Israelis Sunday.

The president froze the US assets of 12 extremist groups including Islamic Jihad and 18 individuals seen as foes of Middle East peace.

"We challenge the US administration to prove that Islamic Jihad, or its secretary general Fathi al-Shaqaqi, has bank accounts, even if it's just one dollar," the Damascus-based group said in a statement received in Cyprus.

Describing the US decision as "futile," Islamic Jihad called on Clinton to "target the assets of the Mafia and drug dealers instead of mounting this crusade against Arabs and Moslems."

"The decision shows the magnitude of the US administration's hatred of Moslems and Arabs," the statement said, adding that Washington was "giving the Zionist enemy (Israel) billions of dollars and the most sophisticated weapons to help it annihilate the Palestinian people."

Islamic Jihad Leader al-Shaqaqi Interviewed

On Operations, U.S. 'Request' to Syria

JN2401130095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1213 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement "in Palestine," in Damascus, by Yusuf Dakkash—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dakkash] Mr. al-Shaqaqi, can you hear me?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Yes.

[Dakkash] Do you confirm what we mentioned a short while ago? You were replying to President Bill Clinton by saying that the Islamic Jihad is not a terrorist organization.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Yes, we are not a terrorist organization. We fight inside occupied Palestine for the freedom of our people. We tell Mr. Clinton and the West as a whole: We have not fired a single bullet outside occupied Palestine on any Westerner or Jew. We do not send fighters from outside Palestine; we do not send weapons from outside Palestine. Our people in its entirety is eager to fight the injustice done against it. We are strugglers who acquire weapons from the very Zionist camps. I am here because Rabin himself issued a decision to expel me. So where does Rabin want us to go today? Since Rabin expelled us in 1988, we have been pursuing our political and information action. The strugglers inside the territories are the people who are drawing up military plans and executing these plans. I believe that the American position is unjust and biased. We do not hear their voice when our people are slaughtered daily. We do not hear their voice when the civilians in Lebanon are shelled daily. We are strugglers who headed toward a specific military target.

[Dakkash] So you are confirming that the operations will continue?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our struggle will continue. This is the law of the Islamic Jihad, which we will never abandon. We reject the relinquishment of our territory and rights. The current agreements consolidate occupation; in fact, they help in the penetration of the region and the control of all the Arab and Islamic nation.

[Dakkash] What do you have to say to the rest of the Palestinians who are being subjected to harsh Israeli measures on account of the operations you carry out?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We have been subjected to annihilation for 47 years, and not for two days. We have been facing genocide since the establishment of this Hebrew state. We are fighting this genocide. We are fighting it through the only language that is understood by the enemy. This is what we have to tell our people. We tell them that the suffering under jihad is a thousand times better than suffering that is accompanied by humiliation, which the Israelis want us to suffer.

[Dakkash] Apparently, the Americans have specifically asked the Syrian authorities that Syria not serve as a safe haven for terrorists, do you think you are meant by this?

[Al-Shaqaqi] They should ask the Americans what they mean. However, I reaffirm that we are not terrorists. Rabin expelled us from Palestine six years ago. Since then, we have been moving from one Arab capital to another, and we do not stay in one capital, to exercise our information and political activity. We do not carry out any military activity outside Palestine. No one—neither in Damascus nor elsewhere—has told us anything about any U.S. request.

[Dakkash] Thank you Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement.

[Al-Shaqaqi] You are welcome.

On Netanya Attack, 'Arafat Stand

NC2401191495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement "in Palestine," by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] How do you assess the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories after the Netanya attack, which was carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First, our people's morale is very high after this heroic operation revenging the martyrs who have fallen in recent weeks and the defenseless Palestinian policemen and in response to Yitzhaq Rabin's blockade

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of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. As I said, a splendid festive mood prevails in the occupied territories.

In the past two days, the Palestinian people have received the news of the heroic operations with great elation, folk dances, and the distribution of sweets. But the authorities' leading officials and followers denounce the attack and are trying to revive something dead called the Oslo Accord.

[Al-'Idan] U.S. officials viewed the joyous Palestinian celebrations...[break in reception]

[Al-Shiqaqi, in progress] ...and the rest of territories in Palestine to persecute our people. When our mujahidin strike this specific military target we begin to hear the U.S. cry, threaten, and apply pressure. This shows that the Americans are absolutely partial. And I say they do not really want peace, otherwise they would have spoken in a more balanced way than we saw today and yesterday.

[Al-'Idan] The 'Arafat authorities have taken measures, including arrests, storming, and pursuit operations. How do you view them?

[Al-Shiqaqi] In any case, so far we have not received any confirmed reports of arrests. Only one incident has occurred, and the detainee was released. But we say that if 'Arafat carries out such measures, he will be the (?loser). First of all, we hit a specific military target; and this did not take place in the self- rule areas. It was in revenge for the policemen, the killers of whom 'Arafat could not accuse. I believe any arrests of this kind will be futile and 'Arafat will be the main loser in such a situation.

Islamic Jihad Leader Released After Questioning

TA2401152295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the leader of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, was released a few hours after he was brought in for questioning by the Palestinian Police.

Following his release, Shaykh al-Shami said that the arresting officers talked to him about the situation and about the impact of the terrorist attack at the Bet Lid junction on the political process and on the Palestinian Authority.

This was reported by our correspondent Dani Zaqen.

Hamas Calls On Egypt To Release Brotherhood Members

NC2401183195 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 24 (AFP)—The Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas called Tuesday [24 January] on Egypt to release members of the Moslem Brotherhood detained over the weekend.

"Hamas deeply regrets the actions of the Egyptian authorities and security services against the pioneers of Islamist action in Egypt, as represented by the Moslem Brotherhood," it said in a statement sent to AFP in Cyprus.

It urged "all Arab countries, starting with Egypt, to release all their Islamist detainees and adopt the path of dialogue and take advantage of the Islamists' programme against our real enemies."

Egypt's attorney general decided Monday to hold for two weeks 27 members of the Brotherhood arrested over the previous two days. They funded Islamic militants waging war on the government, the interior ministry charged.

A campaign of violence by Islamic militants to topple the government has claimed more than 600 lives since March 1992.

The Brotherhood, which is not officially recognized but tolerated because of its official stand against violence, said the latest arrests were aimed at ruining its chances in parliamentary elections later this year.

Hamas Warns Israel Against Hunting Down Militants

NC2401152995 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan 24 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas Tuesday [24 January] warned Israel against hunting down its militants after 19 Israelis were blown up in a double bombing near the coastal resort of Netanya.

In a statement released here, Hamas warned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "not to pursue the symbols of our people," saying that if he fulfilled his threats "he will expose himself and the entire Zionist entity (Israel) to the firm retaliation of our combatants and the battle will be long and hard."

Describing Rabin as a "terrorist," the statement added: "We are more confident in the will of our people than he is in his army."

Islamic Jihad, which like Hamas is hostile to the Arab-Israeli peace process, said two of its members carried out the bombing which killed 18 soldiers and one civilian at Bet Lid crossroads near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya Sunday.

Hamas claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv which killed 22 civilians on October 19 last year.

Israel on Tuesday stepped up the fight against fundamentalism rounding up nearly 90 people on the West Bank and in the Jerusalem suburbs.

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The Israeli army also closed a mosque in the West Bank town of al-Birah and offices run by pro-Hamas Shaykh Taysir al-Tamimi in Hebron and Janin, Israeli military officials said.

Hamas on Tuesday criticised Washington for "describing the Israeli soldiers as innocent" and for putting pressure on Syria.

The United States pressed Syria Monday to stop offering "sanctuary" to terrorist groups.

State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley said Secretary of State Warren Christopher made the appeal in a telephone conversation with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Hamas warned the Palestinian self-rule Authority headed by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "not to submit in any way to the wishes and pressure of the occupation by adopting measures which could upset the stability and security of our people."

'Arafat warned Tuesday he would no longer tolerate the autonomous Gaza Strip being used to prepare anti-Israeli attacks.

DFLP's Hawatimah on 'Battle' To Return to Gaza

NC2301221795 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], told AL-SAFIR yesterday that Israel leaked the news of his request to return to Gaza to reside there only to thwart this return and foil a battle that has been raging publicly and officially for years.

In a telephone contact with him in Damascus, Hawatimah said Israel chose to publicize the news yesterday in an attempt to head off a Russian announcement that Israel is obstructing the return to the self-rule areas of Palestinian cadres and leaders who are opposed to the Oslo agreement.

He stressed that this issue—the right to return—has been on the table for years, and that it got a boost in September 1991 when the Palestine National Council decided on the right to unconditional repatriation. He said this issue gained further momentum after the Oslo agreement, especially after the enemy government of Yitzhaq Rabin opened all roads to the Oslo team and closed the roads to the opponents of the agreement.

He said the demand to return remained publicly alive in coordination with the Palestinian forces outside the occupied territories; and official memoranda were sent to the United States and Russia, in their capacity as cosponsors of the peace process, and to the EU, in addition to the popular marches and rallies that were organized for this purpose.

He said the last of these memoranda was addressed three weeks ago to Washington, Moscow, and the Europeans, but Israel in its news leak yesterday chose to say that only one memorandum has been sent to Russia, which is not true. He said Israel announced this because Moscow was about the make the issue public, and Europe expressed its support and was awaiting an Israeli response to the memorandum.

Asked how he assesses the reaction of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasi. 'Arafat to this request, Hawatimah said: "I think, judging from past experience, that he is against full return. He is undoubtedly very worried, especially after Israel's announcement yesterday that it wanted to consult with him on the question of the return of the Oslo opponents. It is as if Israel wanted him to take the blame for foiling this attempt, although he was the one who chose to go alone, and to dance alone. [no end quote marks as published]

Asked about the effect of this return on the balance between Islamic and secularist opposition to the Oslo agreement, Hawatimah said it is not right to suppose that the Arab peoples have only two options: regimes or fundamentalists. He added: This is clear in the case of the Palestinians, where there are three trends: Rightest, democratic, and fundamentalist.

Hawatimah said the battle for the right to return without any condition or restriction will continue publicly and by all means, with the ultimate objective being to besiege Oslo agreement and prepare for legislative elections to formulate a Palestinian national program. He called for an effective role in pressuring the United States, Russia and Europe to break Rabin's decision banning the return of the opposition cadres and leaders.

Jibril Promises 'Even More Painful' Operations

JN2401205295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has joined in receiving condolence calls and cables of condolences on the martyrdom of the heroes of the qualitative Sidon operation at the front's headquarters in Burj al-Barajinah Camp [in Beirut].

He received hundreds of representatives of nationalist and Islamic parties and forces in Lebanon and the factions of the Palestinian revolution, as well as representatives of Palestinian and Lebanese trade and professional unions and popular delegations from various camps.

The family of martyr Fayiz Jamil Hamadah, Abu-Sa'id, stood beside Jibril as well as members of the field command, members of the front's Central Committee, members of the command of the Beirut area, and the inhabitants of Burj al-Barajinah camp.

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Ahmad Jibril spoke at the condolences ceremony and said the wide popular and party participation in the funeral of the deputy commander of al-Tayyibah martyrdom operation and the symbolic funeral of his heroic colleagues are renewed emphasis on the soundness of the policy represented by the Palestinian factions opposed to the treacherous Oslo agreement, led by our front that has faith in jihad and armed struggle as a sole path for the liberation of Palestine and all occupied Arab territories.

Undeniably, the Zionist enemy has received a number of strong and quick blows following the aggressions launched by its warplanes and helicopters against the front's humanitarian and social centers in al-Na'imah hills. The al-Tayyibah operation, near the settlement of Misgav 'Am three days ago and the Bet Lid-Netanya martyrdom operation, to the north of Tel Aviv, have emphasized the joint jihad of the heroic intifadh people in the occupied territories and the heroes of the Palestinian and Lebanese Islamic and nationalist resistance in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

It was no coincidence that Arab and Islamic blood was mixed in confronting the Zionist enemy and its agents and in replying to the allegations of Yasir 'Arafat and some treacherous rulers who claim that the battle is over. Our heroic fighters from Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine emphasized with their blood and sacrifices the real position of the sons of our Arab and Islamic nation on continuing the struggle against the Zionist enemy. If Yasir 'Arafat, along with Rabin and the U.S. Administration think that they can impose capitulation on this nation under the name of peace, then they are mistaken. The evidence of this are the continuous heroic operations, whether in occupied Palestine or outside.

Ahmad Jibril condemned Yasir 'Arafat's efforts to usurp the struggle of the Palestinian people and the sacrifices of the mujahidin, the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation, and to present them to the enemy after he ignored the continuation of settlement expansion and delays in the release of prisoners in return for allowing him to conduct false elections for the self-rule council under Israeli control.

Ahmad Jibril added that the Bet Lid-Netanya martyrdom operation in Palestine, which was carried out two days after the heroic al- Tayyibah operation in the occupied south, clearly shows Yasir 'Arafat that Palestine is not only Gaza and Jericho but it is also Haifa, Jaffa, Lod, Nazareth, and Jerusalem. Those heroes who can confront the Zionist enemy in the broad daylight and can cause huge human and material losses, and those who welcome martyrdom for the sake of God and the homeland and blow themselves up with dynamite, are able to bring to account Yasir 'Arafat and his ilk and abort all treacherous agreements with the enemy.

Concluding his speech, Ahmad Jibril emphasized that the operations of the front and the resistance will be even more painful to the enemy and will be closer to Palestine and in the depth of occupied land. These operations will be a surprise to the enemy leaders.

He pledged to the front's martyrs and their families that the front will stick to the Palestinian rifle and will raise the banner of jihad and armed struggle alongside the Islamic and nationalist resistance until the treacherous and capitulative policy is foiled and until the liberation of Palestine and all occupied Arab territories, led by holy Jerusalem.

'Arafat Urges Israel To Stop 'Collective Punishment'

JN2501071095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian people are the masters of their independent decisionmaking. This came in a speech at a celebration held yesterday on the occasion of the inauguration of the new building of al-Azhar University. He said: We will allow nobody from outside to decide the fate of the Palestinian people.

President 'Arafat called on the Israelis to stop the policy of collective punishment against the Palestinian people and to lift the military cordon imposed on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

President 'Arafat appealed to the Palestinian people and their national forces to adhere to national unity until the Palestinian flag is raised in holy Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Palestine.

Sha'th on PA Measures, Rabin Statements

JN2401134895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1046 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PA official in charge of planning and international cooperation portfolio by Yasir 'Atiyah; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atiyyah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], good morning.

[Sha'th] You are welcome.

['Atiyah] Allow me first to quote some of the statements you made yesterday. You said: The measures that will be taken this time will not be a mere showdown for two or three days. Dr. Nabil, what are the long-term measures you will take?

[Sha'th] We tend, in fact, to make a distinction between the political activity and security work. For, political activity, in the first place, requires mobilization and introduction to people of the real viewpoint of the PA on all that is going on and on the dangers to which we are subjected due to these acts that lead to killing and perpetuation of violence. Political activity will not lead

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to collective arrests or to investigations leading to nothing because they are not supported with evidence that entails legal action. As for security action, there are measures that should be taken coupled with sufficient data and evidence to try all those who endanger the security of the Palestinian National Authority and the areas under its control. We believe that through legal and sound measures, we can, indeed, develop our security performance and develop political activity in a sound manner.

['Atiyah] Dr. Nabil, in the statement he made yesterday, the [Israeli] Prime Minister [Yitzhaq Rabin] said those, i.e. extremist Muslims who carry out terrorist operations, are ready to carry out any operation to kill Israelis and liquidate peace and the peace process. We are aware that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are partners in this process. On the Israeli side, security forces have taken practical steps and will continue to do so. Concerning the Palestinian side, have the PA's security organs taken any action in this regard?

[Sha'th] It is premature for me to talk about the measures that could be taken. However, I believe that there is full seriousness to protect peace and to protect the security of the Palestinian people through, inter alia, stopping this kind of violence targeting both Palestinians and Israelis. We are committed to this agreement [the Oslo accord] and we want to implement it and take all the measures to this end—measures that do not clash with the law, human rights, real and sound democracy which is based on peace and not violence and which should be adopted expeditiously.

['Atiyah] In the same statement he gave yesterday, the prime minister has also talked about a full separation between Israelis and Palestinians. How would you comment on these remarks?

[Sha'th] I do appreciate that this statement was motivated by the real and deep-seated grief and apprehension resulting from what took place in Netanya two days ago, which is a crime that we have condemned and will continue to condemn. However, I do not think that this full separation is possible if we are to achieve a comprehensive peace in the entire region. I realize that there should be a certain degree of separation after the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state. There are some aspects where there can be separation and others where the reverse should be applied. I believe that it is premature to talk about the final solution on which we will negotiate and which, in our opinion, should be based on [UN] Resolutions 242, 338 and the acquired rights that should not be wasted amid the security concerns. Yes, we want to safeguard the security of all, but we do not want to bypass the rights and the bases of the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

['Atiyah] A final question Dr. Nabil. The prime minister stressed that Jerusalem will remain unified and the eternal capital of Israel and that the Jordan River will be Israel's security borders and not the 1967 lines. How would you comment on these remarks?

[Sha'th] This is his own opinion. In fact, we rely on the DOP, which stipulates that in the final stage, Resolutions 242 and 338 will be fully implemented. These resolutions reject the occupation of lands by force and urge withdrawal from these lands in order to make a negotiated peace. Therefore, we see no borders except those of 1967 and we believe that the Arab, East Jerusalem is Arab and Palestinian and that it will be the capital of the future Palestinian state. This does not preclude the possibility that there will be no closed borders when such a state is established. On the contrary, there should be free and safe passage between the two parts of Jerusalem. We want to be partners and we do not want to fight. Under peace, there will be measures different from those in times of war. Therefore, I say that full separation is impossible and it will create difficulties rather than solve things. If there is closure now, this cannot be but a collective punishment and it will add to the difficulties we are facing. I hope that we can postpone these debates until the start of the final solution talks. Of course, before that every side has the right to give its own view on which we will negotiate when we reach the final status talks.

['Atiyah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the PA, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

'Asfur on Bet Lid Operation, Israeli Measures

JN2301171195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference today, Hasan 'Asfur, director general of the Negotiations Affairs Department, strongly criticized Israel, describing its retaliatory measures in the wake of the Bet Lid operation as a move which would allow political decisions to be controlled by feelings and sentiments. He stressed that political action should not be used to agitate sentiments against the political process, adding that the Israeli Government should adopt a brave, responsible peace decision.

'Asfur said that the decision to sign the peace agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government was one of the most difficult decisions taken by the Palestinians. He said that the peace decision is more difficult than the war decision, and that the peace decision was more difficult for us than for the Israelis. He added: President Yasir 'Arafat was extremely courageous when he decided to sign that agreement, because it was a politically necessary agreement which gives the Palestinians the necessary beginning for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

'Asfur added: Since the arrival of the political authority in the homeland, Israel has been delaying the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] for reasons

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that they describe either as transient or insoluble. The atmosphere between us has not been the atmosphere which we have been seeking since we signed the agreement, something which resulted in negative repercussions. What happened yesterday can only be condemned by any responsible Palestinian. 'Asfur added: Thursday's [19 January] meeting between President 'Arafat and Mr. Rabin gave a new impetus regarded by both sides as a positive development. Moreover, President 'Arafat and Mr. Rabin stressed that we should avoid complaints and counter-complaints, and that we should directly start implementing the DOP in a manner that takes into consideration the interest of both sides and displays commitment to the spirit and letter of the peace agreement.

In his news conference, 'Asfur stressed that the Palestinian side and the Palestinian National Authority are earnestly eager to prevent the occurrence of such acts which disrupt the peace process and the signed agreement. When we say that the authority is exerting all possible efforts, we would not be making verbal promises. Rather, serious effort is being made to put an end to such activities.

The director general of the Negotiations Affairs Department said: We wished that the Israeli political decision would have have been responsive to the Thursday meeting between President 'Arafat and Mr. Rabin. However, in its latest decisions in the wake of the Bet Lid operation, the Israeli Government has been governed by a sentimental reaction rather than political reasoning. We view such measures as being very far away removed from the spirit of the peace agreement. Still, we are not oblivious of the human sentiments left by the operation.

Hasan 'Asfur said: I believe that the political denunciation the Palestinian side has declared is clear, and it is not in Israel's interest to put a dividing line between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Instead, Israel should have distinguished between the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the one hand and Israel on the other. Dividing Palestinian territories in the way announced yesterday is out of question.

'Asfur also said: The agreement obliges Israel's Government to maintain a secure passage to link the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the two wings of the National Authority. The recent measures will not help the Palestinian party consider the possibility of putting an end to violence. The closure cannot quell these violent actions, and Israel's Government has used such measures over the past 28 years of its occupation of Palestinian territories.

'Asfur added: The only way that should be used is the way of political action, and that new barriers between the two nations should be prevented. Such suicide, individual, operations cannot be totally banished, and some other states may face them as well.

'Asfur asserted that the Israeli measures did not and will not lead to more security and stability, that the perpetrators of the suicide operation did not carry any official or legitimate permits, and that they entered Israel illegally. He also said: Our security organs are following this issue, and Israel should bear its share of responsibility in this regard.

Matters, he added, should not be mixed in this way, particularly since we have previously agreed not to use closure or to harm the economic life of the citizens or the Palestinian Authority. The current closure, he said, is worse than previous ones because it is a comprehensive one and affects all aspects of life. Even the agreed upon safe traffic measures are violated. At least one passage should remain open.

'Asfur added: Complicating current negotiations to release the prisoners will increase, rather than ease, tension. The Palestinian party understands the postponement of this issue for one or two days. But we do not understand its postponement indefinitely or imposing a closure indefinitely. He also said: We have to return to the political mentality and to keep away from the emotional language and political sentiment. Palestinian blood shed on this land is much more than that of the other party. Yet, we have not refused to take a political decision.

Abu-Sharif Proposes Buying Settlements in Territories

JN2501103795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 27

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to 'Yasir 'Arafat, by Tawfiq 'Abid, "in Abu-Sharif's office" on 24 January]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Abid] The Jordanian-Palestinian summit is imminent. What do you expect from it?

[Abu-Sharif] First, we expect good to come from this summit which has been long awaited by both peoples. These people are ultimately one people, stemming not only from emotional considerations but also from their joint basic interests, common historic relations, and blood ties throughout long decades.

From my viewpoint, the so-called differences are only a summer cloud. All those who realize the strategic importance of keeping the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples united should contribute on all levels to removing this cloud. No doubt, the Jordanian- Palestinian summit will decide on this matter and remove from the bilateral relations all the flaws which tarnished this relationship in the past phase.

The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is especially important at this particular moment because what the Arab nation is facing as part of the peace process is not less serious than what it faced in times of war. [passage omitted]

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['Abid] A suicide operation occurred in Netanya two days ago. Do you believe that these operations can halt the peace process?

[Abu-Sharif] We are living in an era that cannot be controlled by such operations. One who thinks that he can stop the peace process is mistaken. At the same time, however, no one can blame the [Palestinian] National Authority for being unable to prevent such operations because no authority, person, police, or security service in the world can prevent a suicide attacker from killing himself and others. Such a thing can only be prevented by creating a general atmosphere that will make such actions impossible.

Such an atmosphere first requires ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and removing the settlements. In this context, we say that the settlements are time bombs which may explode at any moment. If Yitzhaq Rabin and his government want to completely prevent any suicide operation, the Israeli Government should leave the Palestinian territories and remove the settlements.

For me, removing the settlements does not mean dismantling them. We are ready to buy these houses, so that Palestinians can live in them. Through AL-DUSTUR, I call on the wealthy Arabs and Palestinians to propose a plan to buy all the buildings which were set up on confiscated Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the settlers currently housed in these buildings, so they can reside inside Israel. By this, we will make an important contribution to defusing terrorism or terrorist actions. [passage omitted]

['Abid] In your opinion, what is delaying the Israelis from implementing the second phase of the Oslo agreement?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israeli Government is making a grave mistake by hesitating and postponing implementation of the Oslo agreement. This is because hesitation gives "extremism" an opportunity to increase its activity. Occupation is the reason behind extremism and not vice versa. The Israeli Government is mistaken. I address these remarks to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, knowing that he is now very sad over the killed and wounded, which emphasizes the seriousness of the situation. Speeding up the implementation of the agreements and the peace steps will help curb the pursuit of "terrorism." [passage omitted]

Commentary Lauds Bet Lid's 'Martyrdom Operation'

JN2301183995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary from the "Palestine Broadcast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israelis are overwhelmed by horror and panic in the wake of the martyrdom operation which was carried out by two Palestinian youths near the settlement of Netanya north of Tel Aviv yesterday morning. This operation killed 19 Israeli soldiers and wounded 65 others.

The Israeli Government held an emergency meeting yesterday evening. During the meeting, it took a host of arrangements and repressive measures. The Israeli occupation authorities sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip until further notice, intensified the security arrangements, and prevented the Arab workers from reporting to work. They also launched a wide arrest campaign against hundreds of Palestinian citizens in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948.

After inspecting the scene, Rabin acknowledged that it is difficult to confront attacks carried out by persons who seek martyrdom. He said these attacks inflicted a large number of casualties on Israel. He added that he was saddened by this attack. Rabin said: It is similar to what we used to face in Lebanon.

The Islamic Jihad Movement has claimed responsibility for this martyrdom operation. In a statement issued in this regard, the movement said two of its members from the martyr Hani 'Abid group carried out a dual martyrdom attack on a bus station north of Tel Aviv usually frequented by Israeli soldiers.

It is noteworthy that this is the sixth martyrdom operation carried out by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas movements against Israeli soldiers and settlers in occupied Palestine, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip following the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre which took place in February 1994.

These martyrdom operations were carried out in reply to the repressive and terrorist Zionist practices against the sons of our Palestinian Arab people and also in reply to the Israeli policy of expansion and settlement building in the occupied Arab territories.

Yesterday's operation near Tel Aviv and similar other operations have confirmed that the intifadah youths are able to reach their targets deep inside the Zionist entity and that they can confront the Zionist machine of repression and terrorism regardless of challenges.

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Algeria

Hijack Report Completed; Officials Dismissed

LD2401192295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Ministry of the Interior, Local communities, and Administrative Reform said that the commission of enquiry formed to investigate the hijacking of the French Airbus and the detention of hostages at Houari Boumediene International Airport has submitted its initial results.

The statement notes that there were serious professional errors that led high-ranking officials to take many disciplinary measures, including the dismissal of officials from their posts. Among those dismissed were the head of police and border patrol, commander of the border police contingent at Houari Boumediene International Airport, the director general of Air Algerie, the director general of the department of management of airport services, the director general of the national air navigation establishment, and the chief customs inspector at Houari Boumediene. These dismissals are effective 24 January.

Haddam Urges Response From Generals

MM2401124195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front Abroad by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given: "We Await the Reaction of the Generals Because They Are the Real Power in Algeria. No Fundamental Differences Between Salvation Front and Armed Groups"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following his return to Washington from Rome, where he attended the second Algerian conference and signed the "national charter" produced by that conference, Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] Abroad, has stressed the importance of the charter or the "platform" [la'ihah] as a basis for serious negotiations between the Algerian opposition and the regime to settle the crisis peacefully.

He said: "A media campaign will begin this week to explain the details and dimensions of the agreement to the international community. Contacts in this connection will begin with U.S. officials and other officials in other states with a call for the international community's solidarity." He emphasized, however, that "that does not at all mean the internationalization of the Algerian question, something we firmly reject."

Asked to give his assessment of the platform, Haddam said that "the platform, which the main legitimate parties representing the Algerian people agreed upon and committed themselves to, covered the main fundamental prerequisites for a comprehensive, just, peaceful, and political solution to the Algerian question. We believe it is sufficient for a real move toward serious negotiations. We are giving the real forces in power in Algeria today time to study that platform thoroughly so that they may move toward serious negotiations. We emphasize that so far we have not heard the answer of the real forces, namely the generals."

In reply to a question about Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif's total rejection of the agreement, Haddam said: "That is just for public consumption. That is why I have affirmed and now reaffirm that we have not yet heard the answer of the real forces in power. We are still awaiting the official answer of these forces."

He said that "the regime abuses religion for political purposes and accuses us of doing so. It keeps repeating in the media that it rejects the Rome conference's program and agreement, saying: How could these people meet in a church when they know Almighty God's words 'neither Jews nor Christians will approve of you.' This is a strange approach which exposes the regime."

On the call for the intervention of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, as advocated by Socialist Forces Front [FFS] leader Hocine Ait Ahmed, and asked if the crisis was now out of control and should be internationalized, Haddam said: "We have not sought and we absolutely do not want to internationalize the crisis. We categorically reject that, but we have a right to inform the international community of the seriousness of the situation and to work for pressure to be exerted on the French circles which still support the putschists, with a view to ending that inhumane and immoral support, and for pressure for the acceptance of the platform in the interest of finding a peaceful political solution. Our diplomatic action which will follow the agreement to keep the international community informed might generate pressure by the putschist supporters to make them go to the negotiating table on the basis of the platform."

Asked if there was any hope of achieving that, Haddam said: "There is hope that they might consider. It is now clear to every sensible person or party that rejection is out of the question."

Asked why the FIS did not take the initiative of suspending the confrontation and military operations as confirmation of its goodwill and efforts for a move toward a solution, Haddam said: "We explained our position on this matter to the parties which participated in the second Rome conference, which is that the FIS and mujahidin leaders should first be allowed to meet in order to find a common formula for a just and comprehensive solution and join the negotiations, after which everyone would stop the jihad before starting the negotiations. We explained the necessity of such a meeting and, therefore, included it in the platform as a main

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condition because the regime bears the responsibility for the fighting and the current jihad and violence in our society.

"That much, at least, should be admitted because the regime is the cause of the fighting. The regime would provide tangible evidence of its interest in a political solution if it were to allow us officially to meet in accordance with the guarantees listed in the 6 September 1994 message. Before such a meeting is held, no party can call for a truce. Such a meeting would be the guarantee for a truce because it is impossible to ask our brothers to stop the armed action while leaving the way clear for the regime to continue its repression of the people."

Asked again why the FIS should not take the initiative by stopping the fighting, Haddam replied: "The platform is itself an initiative because in it we covered the main pivotal points with commitments by all parties.

"If the regime says that it rejects it totally, it would mean that the regime is refusing to stop its use of violence to cling to power and that it rejects individual basic freedoms, pluralism, nonintervention of the Army in politics—which fragments and undermines the military establishment—and separation of the legislative, judiciary, and executive powers. How could it be expected to undertake to end the repression if we call for a suspension of the fighting and for a truce?

"As I have said, a meeting of the FIS political and military leaders is a condition, and [allowing it] would be tangible evidence of the regime's intention to find a just political solution."

Concerning the claimed differences between the FIS and the Islamic groups or between the political leadership and the military leadership, he said: "There are no differences at all. As brother Kemal Qammazi said, there are no fundamental differences. We all have the same objective, which is a return to the people's choice, and the right of the people to choose."

Asked if this current year would be the year of a solution, as Ahmed Ben Bella and Ait Ahmed have said, Haddam replied: "We are not in the habit of making predictions but we wish for a solution to be found this month or in the coming month of Ramadan. The blessed month of Ramadan is the month of mercy. We hope God will open everyone's eyes, including those generals who plunged the country into a pool of blood and tears. We wish Him to guide them to wisdom and the abandonment of fanaticism so that we may proceed according to the platform to which all are committed."

Asked what he thought of France's position, particularly as the French Foreign Ministry's position is in favor of dialogue and a peaceful solution while the interior ministry favors confrontation, and whether there has been a change in the French position or is what we are seeing governed by French local political and electioneering calculations, Haddam replied: "We would like what you said to represent a change in French policy and a return to normalcy. And we would like the file to be studied from a political rather than a security angle. It is a shame to entrust the Algerian question to the French security organs under cover of the interior ministry. Algeria is a free and independent country and we work for the continuation of Algerian independence so that it is able to play a credible role in the region and the world."

On the U.S. position, Haddam said: "We would like the U.S. welcome for the Rome agreement to be followed by other steps and pressure on the French circles which still support the military against the Algerian people. We will hold contacts with U.S. officials this week on that matter."

Haddam emphasized: "We have made a commitment that the agreement reached by the main political parties representing the Algerian people constitutes the springboard for a peaceful solution. The next step should now come from the regime. We are still waiting for the official reaction. A just political solution is inconceivable if a meeting of FIS leaders and the mujahidin leaders is not allowed. As Muslims, we are always optimistic."

HAMAS Leader Comments on Rome Conference

MM2401150595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Nahna Denies Boycotting Rome Conference and Believes Its Document To Be in Harmony With Spirit of Algerian Constitution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Shaykh Mahfoud Nahna, leader of the Islamic Society Movement HAMAS, has stated that political change can only be achieved by peaceful means based on understanding and the rotation of power, beginning with the expansion of the government base.

He stressed that his movement "rejects and condemns all kinds of violence from all sources because the movement wants a peaceful society, which can be achieved through dialogue, not violence." He added that "there can be no dialogue with Kalashnikovs on the table. We want dialogue with words, pens, and logic."

On the reason for his nonparticipation in the second Rome conference, he said that nonparticipation did not mean boycott and that the main reason for the nonparticipation was one of two possibilities. The first was "that telephone and fax communications in the area of our office in the capital, Algiers, were severed."

The second was "that some of the parties which wanted to settle scores with their political partners worked hard to prevent the movement attending the meeting, which, we had said, should have continued inside the country."

On the claim that he and his movement were considered supporters and defenders of the regime, he said: "We are

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for the promotion of points of agreement and avoidance of all points of disagreement. We believe that what was proposed in the Rome document—aside from sparing blood and ending violence—should be raised not now but when security prevails. If opposition means chopping heads off and plundering, then it is the worst kind of opposition; but if it is positive in the interest of rebuilding the country, then we are all for it."

He added: "We encourage the recent statements and the new political approach of some members of the [Islamic] Salvation [Front] FIS in Algeria. We favor that and encourage it. We encourage and support everything that increases the scope of agreement."

On the Algerian Government's rejection of the Rome conference's program, he said: "No statements have been issued yet. Nothing can be judged before it is issued. We do not agree with the interior minister when he attacks some political leaderships and calls them some terrible names. We condemn that because the homeland has taught us to respect our citizens and Islam has taught us to respect everyone. We are astonished by the leaflets of some armed groups denouncing the participants in the Rome conference because we are in favor of hearing views and counterviews and are opposed to the suppression of opinion because suppression breeds suppression."

On what he thought of the Rome document, he said: "HAMAS believes that the flaw in the document was its unbalanced condemnation of violence. It is unreasonable for heads to be chopped off, property plundered, and honor violated every day without any condemnation of such operations." But he added that "the good thing about the document is that it is in harmony with the spirit of the constitution and the views of the parties, the civilian society, and the sincere people in the Algerian Government."

Two Religious Study Centers Destroyed

LD2401202895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said that the two Zaouias [gathering place for religious instruction] of Sidi Benoumar and Sidi Ali in Ain El Kebira and Nedroma in Tlemcen Province have been destroyed with explosives by an armed group on the night of 23 January.

Court Sentences Kidnappers of French Nationals

LD2401194995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special court of the capital, Algiers, has passed its sentences this afternoon in the case of the kidnapping of three French nationals, employees of the French consulate in the capital Algiers.

The sentences passed were a death sentence on Mohamed Ait-Bellouk in his presence, as well as six death sentences in absentia.

The other sentences ranged between life imprisonment and three years in prison.

The capital's special judicial court acquitted five of the accused.

Egypt

Pelletreau, 'Abd-al-Majid on Peace, Weapons of Mass Destruction

NC2401132395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Robert Pelletreau, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East Affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Pelletreau said afterward that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed important topics pertaining to the Middle East peace process and U.S. and Arab League efforts in this regard.

He said they also addressed the Arab boycott of Israel, the Security Council resolutions that must be implemented by some countries in the region, and the issue of weapons of mass destruction.

Pelletreau confirmed the need to continue a dialogue between the United States and the Arab League. He expressed his full appreciation for the Arab League secretary general and the Arab League's role in the Middle East peace process.

Mubarak Interviewed on U.S. Ties, Other Issues

NC2501124495 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Samir Rajab]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has announced that Egypt will not submit to pressure under any circumstance, because its dignity is more precious than anything else, and it will allow no one to wound its pride.

In exclusive statements to "Samir Rajab," President Mubarak said: I reiterate that I will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, regardless of what happens, unless Israel signs it or we reach an equation that will assure us in advance that Israel will sign. This is a principle we cannot relax or abandon.

The president described Egyptian-U.S. relations as normal ['adiyah].

On his brief visit to Jordan on Saturday [21 January] the president noted that he and King Husayn discussed every aspect of the peace issue, including the Syrian track.

On his brief visit to France, the president said: President Mitterrand and I discussed developments in the Middle East, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and

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ways of turning the region into an area free of weapons of mass destruction. I also discussed with President Mitterrand European, international, and African issues in addition to bilateral relations between Egypt and France.

In his exclusive statements to "Samir Rajab," President Mubarak referred to intensive efforts he made recently to solve the border problems between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, noting that contacts took place between him and King Fahd and between him and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The president announced that a Yemeni delegation left Sanaa for Riyadh yesterday to hold negotiations on these problems. The president said he hoped fruitful, positive, and mutually satisfactory solutions would be reached.

In his talk the president compared the damage caused by the earthquake in Japan, which is regarded as the richest country in the world, and what happened in Egypt during the October 1992 earthquake and the 1994 floods. He stressed that the government in Egypt did not dither for a moment and was not tardy in rushing aid to the victims of the earthquake and the floods. It found apartments for all those affected by the earthquake within four months and has also started to build villages and houses for those affected by the floods.

Asked about the prospect of a government reshuffle before the elections to the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly, the president stressed that there will be no such reshuffle, because stability is fundamental to development and because none of us would feel secure without it.

Regarding nominations for the upcoming elections, the president said the National Democratic Party will choose the best possible candidates, who are both popular and honest, to fight the elections under the single ticket system.

Amman Paper on Pelletreau's 'Failure' in Cairo

JN2501113995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 33

[Report by Fathi Khattab in Cairo: "Pelletreau's Failure in Narrowing Egyptian-Israeli Gap"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that the reconciliation talks which took place in Cairo on Saturday and Sunday with the aim of narrowing the Egyptian-Israeli gap, have not achieved the result sought by the United States. The United States aimed at defusing tension between Egypt and Israel regarding the issues of nuclear proliferation and the peace process.

Informed diplomatic sources said that Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East Affairs, explained to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the U.S. stand, particularly regarding the importance of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and of abiding by it to achieve security and stability in the Middle East and in the entire world. 'Amr Musa, however, explained to the assistant U.S. secretary of state that Egypt is keen, more than others, to see all parties sign the treaty because it believes that all people in the region have a right to "comprehensive security" without any discrimination or preference of one party over another. Musa also noted that Egypt only agrees on equal security in terms of commitments and rights.

The diplomatic sources said that Pelletreau noted that the NPT might automatically be extended for another 25 years, that there might be sufficient members to agree on extending the treaty with the majority of votes, and that there might be no need to renew signatures. Thus, the Egyptian refusal to renew its signature will be ineffective. The Egyptian foreign minister's answer was that in this case Egypt would freeze its membership or withdraw from the treaty together with Arab and friendly countries.

It is noteworthy that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the Arab League is holding contacts and talks with the Arab countries to coordinate the Arab position vis-a- vis the issue of nuclear proliferation. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the main cause of difference is that Israel has been refusing to sign the NPT since 1968 while all the Arab countries have agreed to sign the treaty. The Arab countries are required to renew their signature by April despite Israel's refusal to sign the treaty. Meanwhile, the entire world knows the size of the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

The diplomatic sources told AL-RA'Y that U.S.-Egyptian relations and the preparations for the summit which will take place in Washington in April were also discussed during the visit by the assistant U.S. secretary of state. Pelletreau's talks, however, focused on narrowing the gap between Egypt and Israel and on discussing the causes of tension; namely, nuclear proliferation and the stumbling peace process on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

The United States is trying to talk Egypt into signing the NPT once again. In return, the United States will support President Mubarak's suggestion that the Middle East be a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the future. In addition, no state should link its endorsement of the treaty to the positions of other states. The U.S. Administration thinks that the signing of the NPT is a primary cause of the tension between Egypt and Israel. Pelletreau's efforts to reduce the tension have failed. Egypt insists that the issue has to do with the regional level, rather than the international scene, and with the commitment of the states of the region—Israel and others—to meeting the conditions of nuclear security within the framework of a zone free of the weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin came to Cairo with a message from the Israeli foreign minister on the tension in bilateral ties. But Beilin's visit did not make any progress, since Israel

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insists on not signing the NPT. Political circles in Cairo say Beilin's talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, dealt with trite Israeli suggestions and justifications advanced by the Israeli deputy foreign minister on seven Iranian plans that are ready for implementation over the next years. Beilin also expressed Israel's concern about this issue and about the possibility of Iraq restoring its nuclear capability in the future. He said all Israeli weapons will be devoted to maintaining regional stability and cooperation. Beilin renewed Israel's rejection of any pressures to force it to sign the NPT, arguing that no pressure was put on Egypt and Syria to force them to sign the Paris treaty banning the proliferation of chemical weapons.

Pelletreau and Beilin are in Cairo to take part in the follow-up committee of the multilateral negotiations. The talks held by both officials with Egyptian leaders did not produce any progress to reduce the tension in the Egyptian-Israeli ties. Diplomatic sources in Cairo said the United States has advised Israel to quickly initiate a political dialogue with Egypt to reduce the increasing tension and to change the way it addresses Cairo. The U.S. Administration has also warned Israel of the great Egyptian influence on political developments in the Arab nation and the Middle East, advising it to take into consideration the importance of the domestic situation in Egypt. The Egyptian public supports President Mubarak's attitude toward the recent statements of Israeli officials.

Before arriving in Cairo, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin stated that the Israeli Government should intensify settlement activity in Jerusalem. These statements reflected on the atmosphere of Beilin's talks in Cairo.

Moreover, Beilin's statement after his meeting with Dr. al-Baz [first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs] that the Egyptian request that Israel should sign the NPT was mistaken increased the tension of these talks. Al-Baz asserted that Egypt will not sign the NPT and will not yield to any pressures whatsoever.

Follow-up circles in Cairo linked these pressures to the announcement made in Cairo the day before yesterday, Saturday, that the negotiations on writing off debts were deferred until April. This is the same date scheduled for renewing the signing of the NPT despite the fact that the debt cancellation negotiations were slated for January. Some creditor states said that implementing the economic reforms was a precondition for joining the negotiations designed to write off the last batch of debts, amounting to $4 billion, owed to 16 creditor states. The negotiations on deferring the repayment were frozen until further notice pending the cancellation of debts.

Reports in Cairo said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry managed to decode an Israeli message which asserted Israel's readiness to declare war on Egypt in 1997. The responsible sources, to which this information was attributed, said the Israeli Mo[illegible]d issued a document which accurately monitored all the political and military developments in Egypt and several other Arab states.

The document indicated that Israel intends to push things toward confrontation with the Egyptian Government as long as the latter continues both its intransigent positions and obstruction of normalization. This document caused extreme anger and concern for the Egyptian leadership which informed the concerned Arab states of the document.

Envoy to U.S. on Differences With Washington

NC2401134695 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Jan 95 pp 22-23, 76

[Interview with Egypt's ambassador to the United States, Ahmad Mahir, by Muhammad Wahbi in Washington; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Wahbi] Can you brief us on the differences between Egypt and the United States?

[Mahir] There is, for example, the issue of the war in Bosnia. Egypt has demanded a stronger U.S. stand against the Serbian aggression, especially as Washington has already said that it would take such a stand but has not done so. Even with a settlement in the Middle East, Egypt's positions, as an Arab country, are identical with the Palestinian and Syrian positions, while the U.S. position, based on what it believes to be its interests, might be identical with the Israeli one on some points. As for relations with Libya, while we are in solidarity with Libya we are also pushing it to adopt more reasonable positions on the Lockerbie issue. This has happened. We are not happy with the haphazard leveling of some accusations, such as those made in the case of the disappearance of Libyan politician al-Kikhya in Cairo. We have been investigating for a year and we see that investigations in the United States have been going on longer. U.S. circles should not prejudge this issue.

While the United States shares with us the need to strengthen stability in our region, we might still differ with it over some of the means of achieving this stability. For example, we do not believe the U.S. objective is to help a particular person or country, because we highlight the importance of integrating policies to achieve stability.

As for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Egypt remains one of the leading opponents of proliferation. The United States looks at this issue from the angle of its international strategy and wants all the countries to sign this Treaty. Egypt lives in a region that is moving toward peace and this peace cannot be stable if there is no clear balance of power in the region, particularly as Israel is saying that it agrees with our declared aim of making the Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction. Since we are all moving toward peace, then there is no

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reason why Israel should not also move to join the Treaty that bans weapons of mass destruction.

While we and the United States share this commitment to one objective, namely the nonproliferation of these weapons, there are still some differences over some details regarding the means of achieving this objective. We believe in discussing them with the United States and Israel in the spirit of the desire to resolve them, not in the spirit of creating a confrontation. [passage omitted]

[Wahbi] Is there a dispute over the U.S. stance on extremist religious groups in Egypt?

[Mahir] The United States believed once that there was no danger in allowing these groups to practice their activities on its territory. Even though we did not officially raise this issue with officials here, we still drew their attention to some of the destructive calls. They said the Constitution guarantees these groups the right of freedom of expression. But the United States woke up with the World Trade Center explosion in New York and realized that it was not an issue of freedom of expression, but that of groups that exploit the principle of freedom of expression to work against their mother countries and against the countries that host them. Thus it became clear, as was the case with other differences, that our stance was based on principles. It always has been. The United States has recognized this.

[Wahbi] What about the contacts the American Embassy was said to have made with fundamentalist or extremist groups? What about the call by some parties in the United States to neutralize the main fundamentalist trend and win it over to confront the extremists?

[Mahir] Let us be frank. It is one of my embassy's missions to gather information, providing it does not break the law. In a democratic country like Egypt, embassies contact the leaderships of all parties for information. We have nothing to hide and what we say is all that we have to declare. All that is banned is the involvement of any embassy in contacts with elements outside the law. The United States can say it has contacted no such elements or parties. As for those Americans who call for neutralizing some forces and winning over others or holding a dialogue with them, this is—with due respect to the Untied States—something that will be decided by Egypt in light of the interests of stability. No one can interfere in this. We support freedom of opinion for everyone, but not the freedom to kill and terrorize. The United States is not asking Egypt for this but is asking Algeria, which itself is calling for the same thing. But it is up to Algeria alone to define the moderate elements with whom dialogue can be held. Anyway, extremism exists everywhere and we can see numerous examples in the United States. We hear about tourists feeling insecure in the United States, whereas Egypt remains secure and is aware of the source of danger and confronts it on the security, political, and economic levels. [passage omitted]

[Wahbi] Why is the United States angry over Egypt's refusal to renew its signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless Israel signs it? Why is it said in some circles here that the United States is "angry" because Egypt pressures the Arab countries not to sign it unless Israel does so?

[Mahir] First, Egypt pressures no one and no one pressures Egypt. What has happened is that the Arab countries have seen that Egypt's stance is sound, so they support it. The U.S. defense secretary visited Israel, Pakistan, India, and Egypt. The difference between Egypt and these countries is that they did not join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Egypt joined years ago. I can understand the United States, as it prepares for the conference this year to renew the signing of the Treaty, giving priority to the issue of joining the Treaty in its talks with these countries. We agreed to amendments to the draft plan at the UN General Assembly when it was said that Israel was not alone in failing to join the Treaty and that other Arab countries, such as Djibouti, had not joined. The resolution now calls on Israel and other countries that have not joined the Treaty to do so. If the goal is to reach an international treaty with long-term validity, Egypt cannot accept a perpetual imbalance forever.

[Wahbi] There are also reports among leaders in Washington that the United States is dissatisfied with the holding of the tripartite summit in Alexandria among Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria and believes that this conference was held at Syria's request so that Egypt and Saudi Arabia might pressure the Gulf countries to slow down the process of normalizing ties with Israel until an agreement is reached between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

[Mahir] Egypt called for this meeting to discuss issues that concern the region, including the peace process and ways of achieving progress, but not to halt or obstruct it. Some circles linked with Israel have published what you mentioned in your question in which you referred to reports among U.S. leaders. But the three countries are key parties in the region and play an important role in backing the peace process. Consultations between the Syrian and Egyptian presidents have not stopped throughout developments in the peace process. The Alexandria summit was interested in another issue, that is, settling inter-Arab differences, because they are crucial to stability in the Middle East. President Mubarak emphasized, and so did the Egyptian foreign minister, that all the published reports on the conference were groundless.

[Wahbi] The same circles are spreading reports that Egypt's foreign policy has become more nationalistic and more "Arabist" than before, as if there is an inconsistency between Egypt's pan-Arab orientation and the peace process.

[Mahir] There is no inconsistency. Egypt's role is a pan-Arab one in view of its history, geography, and weight. Even when it was accused of abandoning the

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Arab world, it did not stop serving pan-Arab issues, primarily the Palestinian one, for one moment.

[Wahbi] What about the seasonal issue, that is, the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt, especially after statements by Senator Helms, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, who asked that this aid might be linked with positions adopted by Egypt in the United Nations? What about attempts by some American Jewish leaders to separate aid to Egypt from that given to Israel so that Israel would not be affected while aid given to Egypt and other countries could be reduced?

[Mahir] We must first realize that there is a general consensus in the United States that it is in its interest to help some principal countries achieve stability in their region. Egypt is among these countries, as was manifested by its role during the Gulf crisis. Aid to Egypt is not a one-way street. We receive $2.1 billion a year but our imports from the United States over 10 months in 1994 reached $2.3 billion. This means that by helping us, the United States is helping create job opportunities in America and is opening Egypt's markets to its goods. We in Egypt also realize that the aid will not go on long, so we are speeding up the rate of economic reform so that we can do without this aid in the coming few years and replace it with an increase in the volume of trade between the two countries and by encouraging investment.

There is much exaggeration concerning the issue of linking Egypt and Israel. Egypt has its own and more important role in the Middle East, as became evident from its effective role in the Gulf war, while all Israel was asked to do was to remain silent. Our aid was linked with that given to Israel in the first place because we were starting from scratch at that time. Those who wanted to help us linked U.S. aid to us with that given to Israel, which has strong ties with and great influence in the United States. But things are different now. As for the talk about separating them, which you mentioned, that might be an attempt by some circles that want to pressure Egypt. This attempt involves wrong concepts and is manifestly deceptive. The United States understands and appreciates the extent, weight, importance, and uniqueness of Egypt's role, otherwise, it would not have embarked on the Gore initiative and would not have delegated the task of expanding and deepening bilateral relations and perpetuating them in permanent institutions to the U.S. vice president, who has more power than any other vice president in U.S. history.

Mufti Addresses Normalization With Israel

NC2501122095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—The mufti of the Republic, Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Tantawi, has declared he is not against normalization with Israel. Welcome to normalization if it comes from a powerful position that does not allow the party I am normalizing relations with to deceive me or use me and as long as I can have the last word, Tantawi said.

The mufti welcomed a visit to Jerusalem if he is invited, noting: I follow the principle that I should be made to answer not for going there, but for what I will say. I should be brought to account if I harm my religion and homeland, because a candid confrontation is the best approach to obtaining rights, while recoiling within oneself and keeping a distance is not a reasonable thing to do, he said.

His remarks came in an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 27 January after the mufti's recent visit to the United States.

Discussing his meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, he said he explained to him that Islam calls for a just peace that backs the victim of injustice until he achieves victory. He also explained to the U.S. vice president that his visit to the United States sought to rectify some Islamic concepts that are confused in the minds of some Americans by the mass media, which publish untruths about Islam. He also explained that Islam is against terrorism, killing, destruction, and aggression.

Commentary Examines Israel's 'War' Talk

NC2401200095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jan 95 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Ibrahim Nafi: "Why Is Israel Ringing the Bells of War?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel cannot speak about war and at the same time ask for cooperation and peace. It cannot demand normal relations with Egypt and the Arab countries while at the same time speaking about economic pressure and sanctions. It cannot ring the bells of violence and then ask the Arabs to embrace it and accept it in a new Middle East. [passage omitted] He who sings hymns to war is not entitled to ask other parties to sing songs of peace. He who exports inflexibility and hatred to others should not be surprised by the bitterness its "exports" to the region cause or by the rejection, resentment, and hatred this arouses.

In any case, Israel's leaders and ruling elite must realize that Rabin's talk about preparation for war and the document on punishing Egypt prepared by the Israeli Foreign Ministry and deliberately leaked to the Israeli press do not serve the three general objectives that should be protected and nurtured, not the opposite:

1. The objective of a durable and just peace, comprised of all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which will steer all the region's resources toward reconstruction and development instead of wasting them on war and conflict.

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2. The objective of consolidating and developing Egyptian-Israeli relations which Israel complains have not been sufficiently developed on the road to normalization and cooperation. Israel forgets its "subversive Israeli effort" to harm these relations, beginning with the aggressive Israeli acts against the Palestinians after the peace agreement with Egypt, including its destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, its brutality in dealing with the children of the intifadah, and its many other practices which do not help Egypt in developing its relations with Israel and speeding up the normalization process.

3. The objective of establishing a new Middle East which includes Israel and cooperates with it in future joint projects and plans for the benefit of all the states of the region.

The talk of war and of punishing Egypt clearly do not serve these three strategic objectives. Egypt will not be the sole loser in this case. In any case, Egypt will not be the big loser; it will obviously be Israel. [passage omitted]

We would like to remind the Israeli prime minister of a number of facts which he must take into consideration even when he adopts a "tactical" stance in order to win votes.

Both Rabin and Peres won a majority of votes in the recent Israeli elections on a ticket of peace with the Arabs, not war.

In Egypt and the other Arab countries, there are hardliners who reject peace with Israel just as in Israel there are those who reject peace with the Arabs. These tactical statements which satisfy the Likud bloc and the hardliners in Israel also satisfy the hardliners in Egypt and the Arab world, fueling their anger and their rejection of peace and normalization with Israel. To put it simply, such statements give the Arab hardliners a powerful excuse and justification to maintain their convictions and ideas regarding Israel and the joint peace projects. The small stone which Yitzhaq Rabin has thrown in the pond for Israeli hardliners has produced a tidal wave of anger among all hardliners throughout the Arab region and the Islamic world.

Israel's talk of "punishing Egypt" and its attempt to incite anti-Egyptian feelings in the United States, Russia, Jordan, and among the Palestinians because Egypt has not fully normalized ties with Israel have no legal basis. Absence of full normalization is not considered a violation of the peace agreement. In any case, Israel is responsible for failing to create an atmosphere of confidence conducive to normalization. In addition, the 22 normalization agreements signed by Egypt and Israel do not constitute an integral part of the peace agreement, and were not deposited with the United Nations along with the peace agreement. Hence, the delay in implementing some of these agreement does not constitute a violation of the peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Article 7 of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel stipulates that disputes between the two countries should be resolved by negotiations, and if necessary by arbitration. The agreement makes no mention of threats of war or sanctions to resolve disputes between the two countries. Where did Rabin and the Israeli foreign ministry come up with this absurd method of resolving differences between the two countries?

Why have Rabin and the Israeli foreign minister resorted to this absurd method of resolving disputes between the two countries?

Rabin's war talk and the Israeli Foreign Ministry's document on punishing Egypt constitute a direct violation of the peace agreement, for which Israel is totally responsible. This must be taken into account if and when efforts begin on reconciling the views of the two countries.

Finally, in Israel they are talking about punishing Egypt because it has not proceeded with the normalization steps at the required speed. What punishment are they talking about? Do they not know the price Egypt has paid for peace with Israel for over 15 years? Do they not know that Egypt has willingly suffered this punishment out of its faith in peace and its long-term strategic necessity?

For 10 years Egypt suffered under the Arab boycott. Arab organizations, including the Arab League, transferred their headquarters from Cairo. The boycott included not employing Egyptian intellectuals and confiscating their work in Arab capitals. Egypt suffered from this Arab economic boycott. All Arab assistance to and investment in Egypt were halted.

Egypt suffered much and stood fast until peace emerged as the region's only strategic option and the Arabs returned to Egypt and Egypt returned to them. Will it be scared, then, by irresponsible Israeli talk about Israeli sanctions or by Israel's attempt to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. Government to reduce its aid to Egypt? Such is Israel's arrogance and conceit that it imagines that the keys to U.S. decisionmaking are in its hands and not in the hands of the U.S. decisionmakers.

Now that this subversive talk about war and this secret document on sanctions have been deliberately leaked to the Israeli press, our message to Israel is clear and specific. Dropping hints about preparations for war and sanctions—even if they are intended for local consumption—has aroused the anger of the Egyptians and Arabs and has brought back the atmosphere of hostility and suspicion which prevailed during the pre-peace era. It has foiled hopes of establishing a new Middle East based on economic cooperation and not mutual hostility.

How can Arab investors undertake joint projects with the regional, including Israel, if their investments are liable to go up in flames because of subversive talk on Israel's preparation for war or because of the beating of the drums of war, even if this is to satisfy the hardliners in Israel and for local consumption?

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Finally, I want to say that I support the strategic peace option and the just, comprehensive, and durable peace which will serve the interests of all parties, and not just one party. I support a peace based on cooperation and equilibrium and not on threats to use force.

If Israel imagines that it is capable of "punishing Egypt," it must also consider the fact that Egypt is not powerless, does not have its hands tied, and does not lack influence in the Arab region and the Islamic world. Consequently, Egypt is also capable of punishing Israel and demonstrating its power to influence relations between Israel and Arab and Islamic parties, and to even go beyond that, although now is not the time to speak about that.

The memorandum on punishing Egypt requires careful study by a high-level committee, which must draw up various alternatives to face the measures contained in the memorandum. These options must be submitted to the cabinet and Egypt's decision maker. This is enough for now.

Israel's Nuclear Stance Said 'Source of Tension'

NC2501081095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "The Nuclear Challenge Threatens Peace Option"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In politics some concepts are indivisible. Regional security cannot be achieved for one party and not the other regional parties and peace cannot be attained for one side at the expense of the other parties to the equation. This is simply because security cannot be achieved amid the dangers threatening the region and because peace cannot live under threats.

Experts and politicians have stated that Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty will remain a constant source of tension in the Middle East, because of the resulting imbalance of power and the continuing ban on nuclear arms. Experts believe the reasons underlying the Israeli refusal are represented primarily in Israel's reluctance to give up what it thinks will guarantee its continuing military supremacy over regional states, the occupation-based supremacy that threatens the peace option.

Experts say Israel does not recognize any other approach to coexistence. Hence it incessantly talks about a desire for peace while displaying the opposite under cover. Israel wants peace in accordance with its own norms and meanwhile insists on the nuclear option, waving it in everyone's face and rejecting every call to join the states that signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

We believe that Israel's refusal to sign the Treaty is primarily due to its strategic security concept. Although a peaceful course is being pursued, the issue of eliminating nuclear weapons remains one of the causes of tension between the Israeli and Arab sides. Putting an end to tension lies in holding on to negotiations as an approach to peace and, accordingly, settling the issue of the Israeli nuclear option. The concept of regional balance has changed. During the Cold War era, it relied on the balance of supreme power. But now that the Cold War has ended, curbing armaments and, accordingly, supremacy in armaments has become a framework for coexistence, cooperation, and settling disputes through peaceful negotiations. This principle must be applied as a measure of the credibility of the peace process itself. The approach to this is to establish the principle of equal opportunities by eliminating weapons of mass destruction, accepting cooperation rather than competition, developing credibility to prevent a destructive war from erupting, and complying with a timetable that achieves the goal of arms control. The ultimate goal of all this is to achieve a viable, just, and all-embracing peace. The Israeli approach is bound to make the chances of establishing this peace very slim. This makes it imperative for the world community to reach a formula that guarantees Israel's commitment to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to maintain regional stability.

The Middle East hosts people who want to live in peace and security, free of every risk of mass destruction. These people are entitled to world interest in their fate, their lives, and future, just like other world regions. So Egypt has undertaken its full responsibility in this connection for years, relying on the initiative that President Mubarak announced in April 1990 to declare the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. Egypt believes the current stage of the peace process should not be passed without linking talk about peace with measures to deal with this central issue. By the same token, Egypt and all the Arabs insist on the need to link an all-embracing peace with the imperative need to eliminate nuclear weapons, together with the required commitment to international pledges. As Mubarak has repeatedly said in recent press statements: Achieving a just and all-embracing peace in the region is Egypt's strategic choice. Leading the region toward a comprehensive peace is Egypt's responsibility before history.

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*Intelligence Chief on Arms of Mass Destruction

95P50039A Nicosia AFP in Arabic 1022 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia [no date as received] (AFP)—Staff Major General al-Samirra'i, the former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, has said that in 1988 Saddam Husayn had plans to attack Tehran with chemical weapons, but that he changed his decision after Iraq scored military victories on the battlefield.

Al-Samirra'i asserted in a statement issued by the Iraqi National Congress—an opposition coalition based in Iraqi Kurdistan which he joined last December—that Saddam's plan was to inflict Tehran with aerial attacks and chemical missiles. Saddam halted implementation of the plan only after the military balance shifted to Iraq's favor in April 1988, as a result of battle victories against Iran four months before the end of the war between the two countries, which began in 1980.

Staff Maj. Gen. al-Samirra'i claims that the Iraqi military carries out the governmental decision to amputate the ears and to brand the foreheads of deserters. He appealed to Iraqi military personnel to "join their brothers in the liberation army based in our dear north, which has an independent national structure."

The Iraqi press reported on 3 January that the family of Staff Maj. Gen. al-Samirra'i has asked for his death.

On 22 December, al-Samirra'i said that, despite United Nations inspections, Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction.

Western sources have said that the Iraqi military used chemical weapons, especially mustard gas, in attacking the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabjah last March and that at least 5,000 people died.

Paper Reports on Fighting in Kurdish Region

JN2501121095 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 17 Jan 95 pp 1,6

[Unattributed article: "Fighting Escalates in Kurdistan, Hundreds of Dead and Wounded, and Massive Flight From Towns"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have spoken in our daily followup reports, which we have published during the past few days on the front page of this paper, about the real situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and the acts of murder and plunder which are being committed against the citizens there at the behest of enemy states and their intelligence networks which are being served by the agents who dominate our Kurdish people, as directed by the United States and its allies. We have also spoken about the publicity which the agents have been giving to the so-called "normalization," especially the attempts by Ahmad al-Jalabi, the open disciple and agent of the United States in the Kurdistan region, and the orders which the United States has communicated to Jalal [Talabani] and Mas'ud [Barzani] to stop the fighting. But, as the Egyptian saying goes, lies do not travel far. Thus the facts, which confirm what we have previously published in this paper, have been revealed.

The facts, as we have received them from Iraqi Kurdistan through our Kurdish people who have managed to flee the region and as also received by news agencies through their correspondents in the areas of fighting or through interviews with the leaders of the agent parties, confirm that the fighting has broken out on a large scale to include all the towns and villages of Kurdistan. This has been confirmed by the news media of the agent parties, and the agents themselves have begun accusing one another of starting the new hostilities.

The Iranian News Agency carried a dispatch yesterday, 16 January 1995, saying: "Fierce battles are raging today between the forces of the two main warring Kurdish factions in Irbil." The so-called "head of the Kurdish Government" has also confirmed to AFP that "the battles which have been going on between the two factions since the day before yesterday have resulted in the death of 55 persons and the wounding of 100 others."

Travelers from Kurdistan, who managed to escape from the hell of the fighting, have confirmed that the number of dead and wounded is several times the figures which have been mentioned by the above source. These facts, they said, cannot be denied by the above source or any other source for that matter, since all types of weapons, including 106-MM guns and RPG rockets have been used in the fighting, and several positions, towns, and villages have been stormed, occupied, abandoned, and then re-occupied by both sides. Such operations, they explained, are bound to leave behind large numbers of casualties on both sides and also among innocent civilians, sons of our Kurdish people.

Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the political bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] spoke to Monte Carlo Radio the night before last about the actual situation. He said: "The past few days have witnessed big victories for the party following the liberation of the District of Guman and the Subdistricts of Kalalah and Qasri and the whole of Irbil Governorate from Shawish to the Iranian border, including the strategic highway, has fallen into party hands. The party has also regained control of the main suburb of Kasanzani between Salah al-Din and Irbil, which the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] had seized through cunning and deception earlier in the incidents." This is what one of the eye-witnesses has said. What he said gives an idea about the number of dead on both sides and the extent of their relationship, which they once described as "fraternal and democratic." It has now become clear that they are dealing with one another through cunning and deception.

For his part, agent Jalal says: "It was the followers of Mas'ud who used cunning and deception to occupy the area, which we evacuated and gave to the normalization committee. They were the ones who began firing on us

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from that area." He also accuses them of stealing millions of dollars and of cultivating narcotics in Zakhu District areas of: Barwari Pala, Dusaki, Nazdur, Sindi, Sharanish as well as in al-'Imadiyah areas of Sarkali, Kora, Darshish, Zori, and Derah Luk.

Jalal, the fox, has affirmed in a statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAH that "he challenges Barzani to agree to an international investigation into how he spent $114 million which were deposited at the Central Bank in Irbil. His challenge, he said, has come after the DPK has accused him of stealing this money from the bank.

The DPK representative in Ankara has announced that "Jalal Talabani has declared official war on the DPK and has called on his fighters and followers to join PUK centers in order to take up arms in preparation for an allout confrontation."

Jalal, the fox, announced over his radio on 13 January 1995 that "all PUK media will publish the facts backed by documents and evidence, as supplied by the party, without going into the vituperations and fabrications in which DPK media engage." He also asserted that "Mas'ud has not responded by applying all the provisions of the agreement and he has completely refused to withdraw his party's reinforcements from the Bahdanan areas, thereby wasting all the efforts which have been exerted so far."

The BBC reported the night before that "Mas'ud Barzani notified the PUK that if it did not immediately withdraw its forces the DPK forces will launch an allout attack." Persons fleeing from the hell have confirmed that PUK gunmen have continued firing on buildings inside the city of Irbil which are occupied by Mas'ud's followers. They also said that the PUK attacked the town of Shaqlawah and that there were many dead on both sides and among civilians. They added that DPK gunmen, who took up positions around the city of Irbil, opened up artillery fire on the city and that only God knows how many innocent civilians were martyred due to this recklessness by the agents.

Persons fleeing from the hell also confirmed widespread looting of citizens' homes amid the chaos in the city of Irbil, and that looting was not confined to homes, but also included places of worship. They said Jalal's followers looted the mosque of Tirawah in Irbil in front of the citizens.

Agent Ahmad al-Jalabi, the disciple of U.S. intelligence, has remained silent during the past few days. He no longer spoke about "normalization" or U.S. orders being communicated to him through the State Department and his adviser within the coalition forces. Other agents, who are linked with the intelligence services of the countries which are hostile to Iraq, have remained equally silent following the exposure of the facts and the agentry which this paper has mentioned in its reports during the past few days. The agents shall remain silent forever and the day of their flight from Iraqi Kurdistan is near, because the honorable sons of our Kurdish people will chase them out and punish them.

This will be the fate of the agents who have betrayed the homeland and stood by the United States and its allies, supporting its aggression on our struggling country. The curse of treason against the homeland shall follow them and they shall receive the punishment they deserve as spies and agents.

PUK Spokesman Welcomes Turkish Mediation Efforts

MM2401143095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Talabani Willing To Accept Turkey's Initiative Unconditionally"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Media campaigns and accusations have continued between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani). They are accusing one another of launching attacks in North Iraq. The KDP accused PUK forces of arresting three employees working for a U.S. relief organization, while the PUK criticized "tribal stubbornness," renewing its invitation to the KDP leadership to engage in "direct negotiation."

Shazad Sa'ib, PUK representative in Ankara, has revealed to AL-HAYAH that Iranian mediation between Talabani's party and Barzani's party has failed, stressing that Talabani unconditionally accepts the Turkish initiative aimed at bringing him and Barzani together.

Shazad Sa'ib told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the Turkish mediation is continuing in order to resolve the situation in North Iraq. He said that Turkish accusations against Talabani's party of helping the Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK] are "untrue." However, he stressed that Ankara "is committed to its international pledges to protect Iraqi Kurds."

He went on to say that the talks held to end the fighting between the Kurds and to secure a "comprehensive agreement" have produced no results yet. "However, the mediations are continuing. The PUK continues to welcome any proposal unconditionally. As for the KDP, it is setting impossible conditions. And Mas'ud Barzani set a precondition, namely the withdrawal of PUK forces from Irbil."

He stressed that the PUK "has withdrawn its forces from Irbil, but it wants a comprehensive agreement guaranteeing the KDP's withdrawal from Shaqlawah and Irbil suburbs, hence the return of all the forces to their previous positions" before the fighting broke out. He stressed that "the question can be resolved by abolishing the preconditions set by the KDP."

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On the Turkish initiative to end Kurdish infighting, Shazad Sa'ib said that "the Turks have asked Talabani to go to Turkey" to arrange a meeting between him and Barzani. "He expressed willingness to go or to send a delegation without any preconditions." Asked about Ankara's affirmation of its eagerness "not to allow the PKK to exploit" the infighting in North Iraq, he said that "the PKK has a presence in Dahuk Governorate (near the Turkish border). Turkey fears that the PKK might exploit the fighting to threaten its [Turkey's] security if the PUK and the KDP fail to control the situation."

He renewed the PUK's desire "to establish peace as soon as possible." He pointed out that "contacts are continuing with the Turkish Foreign Ministry." He added: "We are waiting for the next step from the Turkish Government." He pointed out that the Iranian Government had tried to mediate. "We did not reject that, but the attempt failed." An Iranian envoy visited Iraqi Kurdistan some two weeks ago and met with Talabani and Barzani. He proposed sending two delegations to Iran—which was not done.

He said that Turkey "is the more influential power and can make efforts to achieve reconciliation" between Talabani and Barzani. He said that Ankara succeeded last year in arranging a meeting between the two Kurdish leaders in Silopi in similar circumstances. However, he pointed to coolness in relations between the PUK and the Turkish Government since October. He said that Ankara "has suspended supplies to the PUK, but not to the KDP."

A spokesman for the KDP has accused PUK forces of "violating their pledge to observe a cease-fire" and of attacking KDP positions. The spokesman told AL-HAYAH that the KDP had pledged to suspend media campaigns "in response to the appeals made by Iraqi opposition leaders in Britain." He pointed out that "the PUK is continuing its daily violations of the cease-fire and of the joint pledge the leaderships of the two parties made to the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress, namely to give its peace efforts a chance." [passage omitted]

'Iraqi Figures' Support Cabinet's Kurd Initiative

JN1901210395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Several Iraqi figures have expressed their support for the initiative launched by the Council of Ministers on Monday [16 January] when it urged Kurdish leaders to halt the regrettable fighting and the horrifying bloodshed in the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan.

In a cable sent to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, they expressed their support for this responsible initiative, which urged Kurdish leaders to renew dialogue with the country's political leadership in order to achieve peace and security in the northern part of the homeland and enhance the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the unfair embargo and the ceaseless hostile plots against the welfare, independence, and democratic peaceful life of the Iraqi people.

In their cable, these figures added: The move your excellency, along with your comrades in the party and state, made to draft the March 1970 statement in cooperation with Kurdish leaders, and the renewal of the dialogue between your leadership and the leaders of the Kurdistan Front in 1991 were well received by all our people. These moves improved Iraq's international reputation and gave rise to sincere hopes that Iraq would achieve security, stability, prosperity, and safety.

The Iraqi figures went on to say: Your new call must be followed up by the sincere nationalist forces so that a broad-based dialogue may be launched. Such a dialogue must be marked by honest discourse, objective approaches, an eagerness to promote the points of agreement and minimize the points of disagreement, and a desire to resolve the points of disagreement through the mechanisms normally pursued by national democratic action institutions, which categorically and unequivocally oppose all aspects of the civil war, and demonstrate a determination to build our homeland, Iraq, on the basis of a firm national unity that does not smack of coercion.

The Iraqi figures said: In this regard, we would like to address a sincere and zealous appeal stemming from complete allegiance to Iraq, the homeland of Arabs, Kurds, and other minorities, to Kurdish leaders of all schools of thought, urging them to put an immediate end to this painful fighting, engage in a serious dialogue with the country's political leadership, and keep away from the colonialist and suspicious forces that have never harbored good intentions toward Iraqi Kurds or Arabs.

The figures urged his excellency the president to forge ahead with this positive initiative, and expressed confidence in his ability to translate it into acts and deeds regardless of all the loopholes that could be used by the enemies of Arabs and Kurds. They also appealed to his excellency the president to consummate this national political initiative by a noble and gracious gesture—namely, the dispatch of medicines and physicians to Kurdistan to dress the brothers' wounds. Forge ahead in this honorable march, which disregards all trivialities and obstacles, promotes national cohesion, amity, and solidarity among the Iraqi people, and serves their interests.

The cable was signed by the following:

Lawyer Basim Sa'id, Lawyer Hasan Sha'ban, Dr. Husayn al-Jumayli, Durayd Sa'id Thabit, Lawyer Salim al-Mandalawi, Dr. Sa'd Naji, 'Ismat al-Ta'i, Dr. Hadi al-'Anbaki, Dr. Wamid Nazmi

'Free Officers' Vow Revenge for Executed Officers

MM2401175395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Bulletin Signed by 'Free Officers' Promises Revenge for Pilots Executed in Iraq"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An Iraqi secret military movement has threatened to carry out new operations against the Baghdad authorities if the new campaign of executions, which it said included a number of pilots and officers, continued.

A bulletin signed by the "free officers" said that the execution of pilot Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, commander of al-Bakr Air Base, and nine other pilots and officers arrested with him may be a prelude to the execution of over 200 officers arrested over the past four weeks. It said that the detainees included five major generals and 12 brigadier generals. The others include lower ranks and pilots awarded the highest decorations since the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The free officers' bulletin warned that the execution of their military colleagues would not go unpunished and that there would be a series of successive blows in the service of the objectives for which those military men and pilots sacrified their lives.

It praised the position of the military personnel from Mosul and al-Ramadi who indeed proved their disapproval of the current regime's policy and attitude as well as their rejection of that regime's crimes. It was referring to the execution of senior officers from these two towns over the past three years.

Paper on Syrian 'Deception' To Survive Crises

JN2401101395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has ridiculed the Syrian regime for resorting to masterly deception and gimmicks to make gains and ride out crises.

In an article today by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar under the headline "The Syrian Acrobat: Rabbit or Fox?" the paper says this regime lacks the minimum of honesty and integrity. The paper denies a report published recently by the Jordanian daily AL-ASWAQ citing a Palestinian source close to the Syrian regime as saying that a secret meeting was held in Paris between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Syrian regime. The meeting was allegedly held under French auspices to bring about Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement. The report added that Saudi Arabia was informed about this and that it did not object to the meeting. This false report also said that Iraq and Syria had overcome the political differences that obstruct normal relations between them, in view of the current developments in the Middle East after the settlement process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that whoever reads this report comes to the conclusion that the source of this information is the Syrian regime, which sought to confirm that it was behind the deliberate leaking of this report. The Syrian regime also surprised the Arab public opinion by making statements that accompanied the hasty preparations for the trilateral summit in Alexandria—statements to the effect that the summit will demand the lifting of the Iraq blockade. This deceived some spectators and made them eagerly await the next move of the Syrian acrobat.

The paper asserts that the Syrian regime raised the question of Iraq at the Alexandria summit as a weapon to blackmail the Gulf states, America, and the Egyptian regime. The Syrian regime wants those countries to slow their fast advance toward the Zionist entity and to harmonize their advance with the slow Syrian pace. This is so that this regime can find a seat on the fast-traveling Zionist- American train.

The paper adds that the information leaked by the Syrian regime on the fictitious Paris meeting is mean fabrication that is commensurate with the low level of the Syrian regime and the fact that it is an agent of America and Zionism. The fabrication was this time stupid and naive and fooled no one.

The paper concludes that America and its subservient allies know in advance the game of the Syrian regime. Therefore America will not pay attention to this game and will continue its fast movement, as long as the traitors and renegades have sold out and betrayed the nation, cause, and national honor cheaply. They no longer have anything to offer Zionism, having offered everything in return for nothing.

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No-Confidence Motions Over Jerusalem Defeated

TA2401172295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has struck from its agenda the no confidence motions in the government over the issue of Jerusalem's integrity.

Sixty-one members of the coalition expressed their confidence in the government, against the opposition's 53 votes. The members of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction voted with the opposition.

Prior to the vote, several Labor ministers said that SHAS' vote against the government would drive Yitzhaq Rabin to give the interior and religious affairs portfolios to members of Labor, apparently Moshe Shahal and 'Uzi Bar'am.

Shahal Opposed to Fence Plan, Wants More Police

TA2401192595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Uri Kohen-Aharonov video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said today that the idea of building a fence to separate Israel and the Palestinians is unfeasible and consequently he does not support it. According to Shahal, the mission should be entrusted to the Border Police whose ranks must be massively reinforced to do that. The police minister was speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen-Aharonov] The encounter between the settlement leaders and the police minister was set about a week ago as part of a series of routine meetings. However, as soon as the meeting began, the council leaders raised the question of the separation and the fence. The idea of building a fence is negative and unfeasible, the head of the council said. [passage omitted]

[Shahal] I do not want to make things worse concerning a first-rate security issue and all its attendant political problems. Therefore, I do not propose fences. I propose beefing up and massively reinforcing the Border Police in order to ensure a proper level of security for Israel's citizens.

[Kohen-Aharonov] Minister Shahal went on to confirm to us that in the near future special license plates will be issued to cars from the territories whose owners will be allowed to enter Jerusalem. [end recording]

Police Chief, Minister on Proposed Border Fence

TA2501114995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Police now have evidence that two terrorists participated in Sunday's attack at the Bet Lid junction. This was revealed by Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz during a tour of the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron this morning. Mark Weiss reports:

[Weiss] Police Chief Hefetz said the police force has its own plan for deploying increased forces along the Green Line to prevent potential terrorists crossing into Israel, as well as regular criminals such as car thieves. The police plan does not include the construction of fences, but involves new roadblocks and sophisticated measures to stop people crossing. [passage omitted]

After inspecting security measures at the Cave of the Patriarchs, the police chief said a terrorist attack at the site is now out of the question.

Health Minister Efrayim Sne says he is not convinced that building a security fence around the territories will prevent suicide bomb attacks in the future. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, he said the construction of such a fence would also, in his words, cause problems for the 130,000 Jewish residents of settlements in the territories. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on Security 'Separation'

TA2401164295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will establish a committee to formulate a plan for the separation of Israel and the Palestinians. Rabin made the assessment that the formulation of the plan would require one to two months. The prime minister explained that the plan did not define Israel's political borders but merely demarcated security borders for the duration of the interim arrangement. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] At the next cabinet session, Prime Minister Rabin will introduce a special committee, which will be formed in order to implement the separation between the territories of Judaea and Samaria and Israel. Apparently, this will be a ministerial committee which will also include professionals from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and the Shin Bet. The prime minister said that the security and economic aspects of drawing a security line must be examined. For example, the security repercussions of preventing residents of the territories from working in Israel must be considered. Here are some remarks by Prime Minister Rabin on the issue.

[Rabin] This is not something that can be done overnight. A plan must be carefully prepared—and this will undoubtedly take from 45 days to two months—on how to gradually implement a separation which will not correspond to the 1967 borders. We will not return to the 1967 borders.

[Segal] Do you really believe we can build a fence between Israel and the territories?

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[Rabin] I do not want to get into technical details. A fence is not necessary everywhere. There can either be a fence or not. There is no point in getting into details before we carry out a comprehensive review of the employment problems in Israel and among the Palestinians, while placing the emphasis on the security issue.

[Segal] Are we not in effect creating a new political border?

[Rabin] Not necessarily. There can be security borders for the duration of the interim arrangement which will not match the permanent borders of an eventual peace agreement. [passage omitted]

[Segal] Many ministers support the concept of a separation, including Ministers Shahal, Rubinstein, Sarid, and Bar'am. However, other ministers rejected the idea as unfeasible. Here is Minister Efrayim Sne:

[Sne] This kind of security separation is not feasible unless you build a fence around every settlement and one large fence along the Green Line. Even then, I am not sure that such a fence would stop the kind of determined kamikaze terrorists we are currently facing.

[Segal] The main problem was and remains the dozens of settlements that will remain outside the fence and outside the security separation line. According to the Oslo Agreement, there is no intention to either evacuate these settlements or relocate them inside settlement blocs during the interim arrangement. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 24 January carries a similar report on Prime Minister Rabin's remarks which adds that "Prime Minister Rabin sought to clarify some points regarding construction in Greater Jerusalem." The prime minister said that "the government has decided to continue construction where such work has already started. Private construction which was not funded out of the state budget would also continue. Therefore, Rabin explained, any decisions made now would only effect the plans for 1995 or 1996. The ministerial committee would formulate a position which would be brought before the cabinet for discussion. Rabin added that the left-wing demonstrations against land expropriations were uncalled for since land was only being expropriated for security reasons or public use. This government has not built even one single settlement, the prime minister asserted, claiming that the millions channeled by the Likud into the territories had been diverted back into the Green Line."]

Shin Bet Head: Security in PA 'Borders on Chaos'

TA2401171595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Shin Bet told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the security situation in the Palestinian autonomy borders on chaos. The leaders of the Palestinian Authority [PA] have no control over what happens in the field, commanders are not issued clear guidance on how to deal with terror attacks and terrorists, and officials do as they wish to fit their own interests, he said.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the head of the Shin Bet noted that there are nearly 150 wanted men within the boundaries of the Palestinian autonomy. Many of them fled there following the Oslo accords, and some of them are suspected of having committed murders. The Palestinian Police arrest suspects but release them shortly afterwards, he pointed out.

The head of the Shin Bet went on to say that 1,500 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists have been arrested since the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street. He noted that the Palestinian Police foiled several attempts to smuggle weapons and materiel in from Egypt to the PA, but added that large quantities are nevertheless being smuggled in from Egypt.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 24 January carries a report by Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky, who quotes the head of the Shin Bet as telling the Knesset committee that "the Palestinian Police could do more to prevent terror, but they do not receive the proper guidance at the political level." He added that "the number of people prepared to die in suicide attacks against Israel is increasing and that the Palestinian Police are holding six terrorists in custody who planned to commit security-related crimes."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 January adds that the head of the Shin Bet told the Knesset committee that "Yasir 'Arafat ordered the Palestinian Police to act within the autonomy against suspects connected to the attack at the Bet Lid Junction." He added that "it is now clear that the two terrorists who perpetrated the attack were members of Islamic Jihad and that they did not act in cooperation with Hamas. Following the booby-trapped bicycle attack at the Netzarim Junction in the Gaza Strip, the two were arrested by the Palestinian Police for 18 days, but were released after it came out in their interrogation that they had not been involved in the attack. The head of the Shin Bet went on to say that dozens of activists in the rejectionist organizations suspected of having committed security-related offenses are being held in custody in Gaza Prison. Some of them were captured shortly before setting out to perpetrate suicide attacks." He pointed out that " 'Arafat has not ordered his security forces to confront the terror organizations."]

Document Says Palestinians Violating Oslo Accord

TA2301193895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Knesset correspondent Dan Scemama video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A document prepared by the Military Prosecutor's Office and kept secret for a month says that the Palestinians have violated the Oslo agreement in all areas.

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The document, revealed today to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin, has also reached our Knesset correspondent Dan Scemama. It states that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has not complied with requests to hand over people suspected of murdering Israelis, as well as official requests to receive updates on interrogations of these suspects. The PA is not upholding its commitment to prevent rampant incitement against Israel and has not handed over lists of Palestinian policemen. Israeli security forces are held up at roadblocks and Palestinian policemen deviate from the areas in which they are permitted to travel.

The document is 15 pages long and deals with 50 different types of violations of the accord.

Peres Criticizes U.S. for Not Stopping Iran

TA2401180195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has blasted the major industrialized states, including the United States, for not doing more to stop Iran and its support of terrorism. The foreign minister, speaking to reporter Dick Winter, laid out the steps he believes must be taken by the Western world.

[Begin Peres recording] First of all, not to supply them with money and economic aid so that they should be able to continue with their crazy policies, and then a collective world demand that they will stop their threat to destroy another country. Iran is the only country in the world today that calls openly for the destruction of another country. They behave toward Israel as though Israel would be a collective Salman Rushdie. And I think this should not be permitted. [end recording]

Territories' Residents Detained Despite Closure

TA2301194395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The police today detained over 500 residents of the territories, who were in Israel without permission, despite the closure imposed last night on the territories. The Palestinians say the decision to close the territories is a violation of the economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

Right-Wing, Settler Heads on Retaliation on Arabs

TA2401131495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 95 p 19

[Report by Itamar Eichner]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elements in the extreme right wing and settlement leaders have warned about plans by fanatical right-wing activists retaliate acts against Arabs in response to the Bet Lid massacre, among other things.

Extreme right-wing circles in the settlements spoke yesterday about activists organizing to take the law into their own hands, which frightens even Barukh Marzel, the head of Kakh Movement, who said yesterday: "I fear that in the coming days somebody might do something radical. My feeling is that something very grave is about to happen; revenge for the Bet Lid attack and the government's impotence."

Marzel is aware that his telephone is constantly being wiretapped by security elements, but it does not prevent him from saying the following things: "I spoke with several people and the atmosphere is grave. People claim that the government permits Jewish blood to be spilled and that the only language understood is [Barukh] Goldstein's. If the spilling of blood continues, I am warning that a Jew might carry out a terrible act."

One of the settlement leaders told MA'ARIV yesterday: "People are much more daring. They are fed up because they have lost faith in the government and they think that if they do two or three things the country will be saved. It is not inconceivable that another massacre will take place."

Tzvi Katzover, the Qiryat Arba' local council head, said yesterday that "these feelings of revenge are around all the time. I hope that people will be strong enough to restrain themselves."

Committee Votes on Settlement Construction

TA2501122395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ministerial committee on settlement construction today passed several decisions. The building plans in Ma'ale Adumim will be spread over two years instead of one and the plans for Betar 'Ilit will be reconsidered. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has the details:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Moreover, the government hopes that it will succeed in controlling the pace of building, sales, and occupancy of the apartments in Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and Betar. The ministerial committee approved last year's building plans, including apartments that so far exist only on paper. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer reports that the committee has approved the building of the 800 apartments marketed last year in Ma'ale Adumim.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The second issue, and perhaps the most important, is to spread 1995's marketing of 1,080 housing units over two years so that in 1995 the number of housing units sold will not exceed 500, and the remainder will be sold in 1996.

On Betar, the committee decided to approve the 1,026 housing units marketed in 1994 and continue planning

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900 housing units earmarked for marketing. With the completion of the planning stage, the committee will consider the sales pace.

[Raz] That is perhaps the sting in the committee's decision: Even if the Betar plan is approved it does not mean the apartments that exist on paper will be marketed. The committee was divided over Betar since the Meretz ministers had reservations.

Giv'at Ze'ev: The apartments in construction—some 300—will be completed and some 800 units will be built on available private land.

The government, as we will hear from Avraham Shohat, has already prepared its case against possible criticism.

[Shohat] I would like to add, although it might sound strange, that in the 15 years of Likud rule they build at a rate of 250 housing units a year while we are now building much more. That is significant for Ma'ale Adumim, and I think that the right decision was made.

[Raz] We should add that based on the committee's decision, the construction will not cost the government a single cent since the development and infrastructure will also be paid for by the occupants of the apartments in Jerusalem's ring towns. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 25 January adds that "the ministerial committee approved the construction with government funds of 50 housing units in the Jordan Rift Valley." The report also said "the Knesset today rejected by a bare majority a bill linking Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev to Jerusalem. Labor Knesset Members Avigdor Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zismann, as well as SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] voted against the government."]

Labor, Likud Whips Seek National Unity Government

TA2201160495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor's Ya'aqov Shefi and the Likud's David Mena', the whips of the Knesset's two largest factions, are initiating an effort to set up a national unity government. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the two Knesset members, who will convene members tomorrow, said that only a unity government can head a dedicated campaign against Islamic terrorism. Mena' said that a government without Meretz will act more resolutely against the terrorist organizations.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that while there is no room for talk about setting up a national emergency government, not even temporarily, the prime minister will win the Likud's full backing if he takes time out to talk to all the political factions to work out an agreed-upon process for uncompromising war against terrorism. Netanyahu told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that that means giving the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] back its freedom of action and being dependent only on security forces in the war against terrorism and not leaning on the Palestinians. Rabin must stop the withdrawal from the West Bank cities and the concessions, and if he does that he will receive Likud backing, Netanyahu added.

Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili said that he will oppose expanding the government on the basis of its guidelines. Adding Likud ministers will not contribute to solving the problem of terrorism, while it could simply stop the political process. I do not believe that the Likud has geniuses who have miracle cures; therefore, there is no room for a unity government or an emergency government, Zvili said.

December 1994 NEQUDA Review

TA2201170195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a review of the December issue of NEQUDA, the monthly Hebrew-language magazine published by the Society for the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley, which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

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1. In Lieu of an Editorial
2. Eighty Percent Oppose Stationing U.S. Troops on the Golan
3. A Significant Rise in the Number of People Joining the Settlements During the Term of the Leftist Government
4. A Practical Point
5. The Gate has been Opened (from the Inside) for the Destroyer To Enter

IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

The column, appearing on pages 16 and 17, consists of five essays of varying length. A 100-word essay entitled "For the Sake of Jerusalem" says that, as was to be expected, construction work around Jerusalem has encountered the opposition of "Arabs and Jews who aspire to the imminent establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital." It argues that because there are no good reasons to assume that the Israeli Government will defend the need to construct the new neighborhoods, the settlers council should take this task upon itself.

A 400-word essay entitled "A Misguided Lightning [baraq]" asserts that, because the living conditions in Eretz Yisra'el are largely determined by our security situation, outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has left his mark on the political situation in Israel, mainly with regard to the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza. It

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says that although the government was initially accused of lacking determination to confront the intifadah, it was really the army's General Staff "that made the historic-strategic mistake that caused Israel to deteriorate to where it is now." The essay says that because Baraq as deputy chief of staff and then as chief of staff did not prevent the army from "losing the war" against the intifadah, the Likud government was forced to go to Madrid and the Rabin-Peres government had to sign the "Oslo and Cairo surrender agreements." The article praises Baraq for his contribution to the army, but charges that the chief of staff did not prevent the army from "abandoning the norms of offensive and devotion that had guided it and Baraq in the past."

A 300-word essay entitled "Quality Will Determine" discusses the electoral situation in Israel, stating that the public's support for the government is on the decline, while the opposition "national camp" parties are gaining strength because they have been "consistently presenting an alternative defense policy." The article says, however, that disappointment with the current government does not guarantee support for the opposition. It, therefore, urges the opposition to "form a clear policy, elect an appropriate and reliable leadership, and tighten the ranks."

A 200-word essay entitled "Harmful Competition" speaks of the harm done by emissaries who collect funds abroad, mainly in the United States, for the settlers' institutions, schools, and settlements. The essay recommends that a body be set up to coordinate fund collection and distribution on a united basis.

EIGHTY PERCENT OPPOSE STATIONING U.S. TROOPS ON THE GOLAN

This 200-word article, which appears on page 23 along with accompanying charts, cites a survey carried out in the United States "last November," commissioned by the MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY, and carried out by Fabrizio, Mclaughlin,and Associates. It shows that 80 percent of the American public oppose stationing U.S. troops on the Golan as part of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE JOINING THE SETTLEMENTS DURING THE TERM OF THE LEFTIST GOVERNMENT

This 1,000-word article on pages 34 and 35 by sociologist Yitzhaq Berman presents statistics on population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements from "the publications of the Central Bureau of Statistics" in 1994. The statistics are said to show the following facts: "In 1993, 116,300 Jews resided in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." "There has been a decline in the pace of the rise in the Jewish population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." "Between 1991 and 1993, there was a 9.9-percent rise in the number of Jews moving to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," and at the same time "there was a 73-percent rise in the number of Jews leaving Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." The statistics also refer to the places Jews come from and go to after leaving Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the main location in both cases being Jerusalem. The article concludes that "the Rabin government's policies do not have a significant impact on the population of Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," but that "they do have an impact on those living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as there has been a rise in the pace at which Jews are leaving the area." The article further states that "the important point concerning the settlement of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is not necessarily the need to convince Jews to move to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but to prevent them from leaving." A footnote to the article adds that "quite a few Jews who immigrate to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza do not change their addresses for various reasons."

A PRACTICAL POINT

This 8,000-word column on pages 40, 41, 42, and 43 by 'Ami'el Unger consists of seven essays. An essay entitled "There is Logic in Failure" draws a comparison between the "Democrats' defeat in the U.S. Congressional elections" and the situation of Rabin and his government. After discussing the reasons for Clinton's defeat, it states that the polls indicate a decline in the public's support for Rabin and his government, saying that the issue of whether the opposition will be able to stay reasonably united is still a mystery.

An essay entitled "The Knesset is not the Histadrut" views two possible "horror scenarios": that Rabin will cut himself off from Labor and set up an independent list of "glamorous names" and that Hayim Ramon will form a new list and win massive support. The article rules out the possibility of either list's winning in elections because Rabin's standing in the polls is declining even on a personal basis, and Ramon's popularity, which was only proven in the Histadrut labor federation, will be no match for Netanyahu's.

An essay entitled "Refusing To Be Comforted" takes issue with articles by Rabbis Yo'el Bin-Nun and Menahem Fruman, which were published in the previous NEQUDA issue [cited in second referent item], who suggested that one not despair over concessions made to the Jordanians in Jerusalem, because the concessions are merely spiritual, not political in nature. The essay says that this type of argumentation "plays into the hands of Rabin." It states that "Arab control of the Temple Mount has always been a political stronghold, not only a spiritual one." Unger says that "although we must not fall into paralyzing despair, it is more dangerous to stop despair by purging a dirty move or by whitewashing a failure."

An essay entitled "A Sold-Out Game" argues that Rabin's Government has restricted IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in Lebanon, despite recurring Hizballah attacks, because it claims that the only possible solution is political and can only be attained by

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reaching an agreement with Syria, thus following the same reasoning it used when it said that the intifadah could not be military defeated, after which it helped 'Arafat gain power. Unger suggests that we follow the Hizballah example and show the Syrian Army that "initiating terror is not exclusive to only one party."

An essay entitled "The Peace Police Is Afraid of Getting Hurt" says that "it is hard to understand what is so great about having an American presence on the Golan" since the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia do not help much. If stationed on the Golan, "the force will not curb al-Asad," "but, should Israel wish to respond, it would get in trouble because of the presence of the peace defenders."

The last essay entitled "They Have Been Eulogized Too Soon" says that in Russia "the era of groveling before the United States is over. Russia is back in the big game and, if Jerusalem has failed to understand this, the message was well received in Gaza": 'Arafat has already asked for Russia's intervention to expedite peace. Viewing the way Europe has treated Russia's economic difficulties and the way its priorities are arranged, Unger asserts that "the assumptions on which the Oslo process was based are collapsing one by one. 'Arafat is not the landlord and has not abandoned the phased plan against the Zionist enemy." Thus, "the euphoria regarding a stable and supportive international system, led by the United States, is being shattered."

THE GATE HAS BEEN OPENED (FROM THE INSIDE) FOR THE DESTROYER TO ENTER

This 4,000-word article by Elyaqim Ha'etzni published on pages 46, 47, and 48 takes issue with authors of several articles in the November NEQUDA issue that spoke in favor of adopting moderate stands, such as agreeing to the evacuation of several settlements or of gathering them in blocs. Ha'etzni says that this is "subversion from under the foundations of our settlement endeavor at a time of our supreme test." He argues that those who hold these views "will not rescue even themselves for the price of sacrificing their brothers" and that after the government uses them for its purposes it will dispose of them in shame as it did to Palestinian collaborators. He questions how NEQUDA could even publish such articles. The article lashes out at the "dovish settlers" who are being favored by the Israeli left and the media, which is "the PLO's ally." Ha'etzni claims that the government will further exploit those "moderate settlers," and he therefore offers "two declarations of principles that would serve as a test of attitudes toward and sympathy with the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers and the Eretz Yisra'el faithful throughout Israel." The "declarations of principles" are presented in two separate boxes in the body of the article, with the names of the people, settlements, and yeshivas that have and were asked to endorse it and quotes from the Holy Scripts to prove the points they are making. The following are the texts of the declarations with the quotes from the Bible omitted:

"Declaration of Principles (1)

"A. Uprooting settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the Golan as part of the Israeli peace equation contradicts the laws of our holy Bible ignores Israel's most ancient tradition, and jeopardizes the existence of the nation and its country today.

"B. It is therefore absolutely forbidden to issue an order to that effect on behalf of the security personnel. Anyone given such an order is not obligated to follow it because, in fact, he would be carrying out a mission that involves committing a felony for which the perpetrator also bears full responsibility.

"C. Residents of the settlements to be uprooted have the right to refuse to abandon their homes and settlements and may express their opposition to this illegal plot.

"D. The masses of the nation of Israel will rush to the assistance of the settlements that are under direct threat with the conviction that the Torah orders us to settle the land and forbids giving it away to the rule of foreigners, which would constitute a life threat to nearby settlements, close and far alike."

This declaration of principles has been signed by former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira and settlement Rabbis Sha'ul Yisre'eli, Zalman Melamed, Moshe Tzvi Neriya, and Nahum Rabinovich.

"Declaration of Principles (2)

"1. Uprooting Jewish settlements as part of an Israeli 'peace' equation is a national crime.

"2. Even if they are so ordered, security personnel may not perform the crime of uprooting settlements, because such an order is manifestly illegal.

"3. The residents of settlements to be uprooted may and are even required to: a) stay put and refuse to abandon their homes and settlements. b) actively oppose any attempt to remove them from their homes and places by force.

"This active opposition will in no way include the use of firearms or any means that might cause bloodshed.

"4. Residents under the threat of being uprooted will call on the masses of Israel to come to their assistance, stand by them, and practically foil any deportation, uprooting, or destruction attempt."

A list of names of the people who signed this declaration includes, among others, Me'ir Har-Tziyon, Ida Nudel, and several university professors and former army officers. The second box also includes the following paragraph: "The declarations will be distributed in Netzarim, Kefar Darom, Morag, and dozens of "Netzarim-like" locations that might face the blow of an evacuation decision any day now."

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Meetings With Palestinians Yields Agreements

PA's al-Ashhab on Results of Talks

JN2301184495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Report by 'Urayb al-Rantawi in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian ministerial committee will resume its expanded meeting at 1800 today to discuss the results achieved by the subcommittees stemming from it and which began meetings earlier this morning.

Our radio has learned that many of these committees have completed their work while others were still meeting as of the preparation of this dispatch.

Brother 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, minister of Posts and Telecommunications, told our radio that the subcommittee on postal services and telecommunications completed its work with a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Jordanian government, and that it will be submitted a short while from now to the expanded meeting of the ministerial committee's expanded meeting.

Al-Ashhab also told our radio that the memorandum contains several issues, the most prominent being the agreement to send letters by mail between the PA and Jordan through the King Husayn Bridge, whether they are letters mailed to Jordan or to the Arab countries through Jordan. It was also agreed to accredit Royal Jordanian as the carrier that will implement the protocol on letters by mail. Al-Ashhab said that Jordan decided to send experts in the field of postal services and telecommunications at the expense of the Jordanian treasury to visit the self-rule areas and carry out field surveys on postal and telecommunications services.

The Palestinian minister said that the Jordanian side decided it will use its good offices and international relations to support the Palestinian endeavor to join the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union.

Jordanian-Palestinian talks will continue this evening and tomorrow morning to finalize the protocols and draft agreements that will be submitted to the Jordanian-Palestinian summit end this week.

Dispute Over Jerusalem Said Resolved

NC2401151495 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Jan 24 (AFP)—Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule Authority have resolved differences over Amman's control of holy sites in Jerusalem ahead of a visit here by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, officials said Tuesday [24 January].

'Arafat is expected in the Jordanian capital on Wednesday to sign with Jordan a major nine-point "joint strategy" document and six cooperation accords.

But the document makes no mention of Jordan's custodianship of Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem, the source of a rumbling dispute between Amman and the PLO.

And it praises Jordan's October 26 peace treaty with Israel, which the Palestinians had earlier condemned for recognising Amman's "special role" in administering Jerusalem sites.

Israel captured and annexed Arab East Jerusalem in 1967 and has declared it the "eternal, undivided capital" of the Jewish state. But Palestinians also lay claim to the city as the capital of any future Palestinian state.

Under the Israel-PLO autonomy accords the status of Jerusalem is not due to be negotiated until May 1996.

The strategy document and cooperation accords were drawn up by Jordanian officials and seven Palestinian "ministers" from the self- rule Authority, in Amman for two days to prepare for 'Arafat's visit.

They are due to be signed by 'Arafat and either King Husayn of Jordan or his Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir, officials said.

The document stresses the "need for total and permanent cooperation between the two parties."

It affirms "Jordan's support for the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO to win its right to self-determination over its territory and the establishment of its independent state with Jerusalem as capital."

It also praises the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty as an "important step" to the restoration of Jordan's rights, and a "support for the other (peace) tracks whose aim is to obtain all legitimate Arab rights."

Officials said the new understanding came after Jordan stressed to Palestinian leaders last week that it would hand over control of Moslem sites once Jerusalem's final status has been resolved.

At the meeting of the al-Quds Committee [Jerusalem Committee] in Morocco, Amman stressed it had "no other aim than to serve the Palestinian Authority so that it can extend its authority and powers," a Jordanian official said.

The six cooperation accords relate to future relations between the two sides in trade, finance, communications, transport, culture and administration.

Their aim is to "set up a free trade zone between Jordan and the autonomous Palestinian zone," Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd- al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said Monday.

An economic agreement was drawn up between Jordan and the Palestinians in January 1994 but never signed because of Palestinian reluctance.

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'Arafat has not visited Jordan since he settled in the autonomous Gaza Strip last July.

Al-Kabariti on West Bank Awqaf, Jerusalem

JN2401174295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Responding to a question by the Jordanian News Agency regarding the accord on Jerusalem, the Islamic holy places, and the Islamic courts in Palestine, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated the following: The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan asserts that after it announced its decision to disengage its ties [with the West Bank], the Islamic awqaf and the Islamic courts in the West Bank, except Jerusalem, definitely became the responsibility of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which is the only side authorized to exercise such authority and powers by benefiting from the Jordanian Government's decision to disengage the said ties.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will continue to supervise and care for the Islamic holy places and the Islamic courts in holy Jerusalem until the PNA spreads its own sovereignty over them.

Sides 'Very Satisfied' With Agreement

JN2501072095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn will meet with President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. 'Arafat is scheduled to arrive in Amman this afternoon on a working visit to Jordan.

During the meeting, they will discuss and enhance the relations of cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. This was announced by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. In press statements after the cabinet's session yesterday evening, he lauded the agreement reached between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority.

Al-Kabariti said the Jordanian and Palestinian sides are very satisfied with the agreement.

'Text' of Draft Accord

JN2501124295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 95 p 7

["Text" of draft agreement concluded by the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic and Financial Committee in Amman on 23 January]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Preamble:

Stemming from the historic and deep-rooted ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, and with the aim of the attainment of common interests and goals, and reiterating the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields, based on the close ties that prove a solid ground for elevating bilateral relations to advanced levels and integration in the interests of both peoples within the context of a common future, and to enhance and support all good efforts exerted with our brothers in the Arab countries to attain the aspired goals and boost the standing of our Arab Nation and enable it to confront the challenges, and as an expression of our common aspirations and noble goals that are sought by both parties, the two sides have agreed that it is crucial to formulate a unified strategy based on the following principles:

1. The necessity of comprehensive and constant coordination between the two sides to attain the commonn goals in the interest of both peoples.

2. The two sides affirm that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special and unique and constitute a model to enhance the potentials and capabilities of the Arab Nation and to extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation among the (Arab) people, enabling the Arab Nation to assume its responsibilities and tis deserved place (in the international community), especially in the light of international developments.

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reiterated its constant and continuous support for the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to attain their right to self-determination on their national soil and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to support the Palestinian quest to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DoP) as a step towards the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

4. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cooperate with the Palestinian National authority (PNA) in all fields, and will provide all the needed expertise to build national institutions capable of assuming their responsibilities and tasks in the interests of the Palestinian people.

5. The two sides reiterate their commitment to the concept of a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 435 and the restoration of all legitimate rights.

6. The two sides pledge to work jointly towards inter-Arab reconciliation and the achievement of Arab solidarity in the interest of the brotherly peoples and all of the Arab Nation in order to boost opportunities for a just peace that will guarantee security and development for the good of the Arab people, to consolidate (the Arab nation's) collective belonging, and to safeguard human rights and dignity.

7. The two pledge continuous cooperation and coordination in all regional and international forums and organisations to serve the interests of both sides and the higher Arab interests.

8. The agreement that Jordan signed with Israel on Oct. 26, 1994 constitutes an important step towards the restoration of Jordan's sovereign rights on its land, water and borders

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and towards securing the rights of the (Palestinian) refugees displaced in 1948 and 1967 in accordance with international laws and resolutions. The agreement also enhances the other tracks of negotiations in a way that secures the attainment of Arab legitimate rights.

9. In order to complement all aspects of coordination and consultation and to serve the interests of the two peoples, the two sides believe it is crucial to reactivate the Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee to follow up mutual issues of concern, and provide an appropriate mechanism that would ensure the realisation of the two peoples' interests through constant and direct contacts

First: Monetary Affairs

1. The two sides agree that the Jordanian dinar will remain the currency in use in addition to the other currencies in circulation in the self-rule areas.

Being so, it will be a legal means for payment for all purposes and official dealings and procedures and will be accepted by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and its various institutions as well as banks.

2. The two sides agree to committing themselves to entering into comprehensive and early negotiations aimed at organising the process of exchanging Jordanian dinars in the self-rule areas for local Palestinian currency. They also commit themselves to taking arrangements and other obligations required in this respect should the PNA decide to have separate Palestinian currency.

The two sides also pledge to refrain from taking any abrupt unilateral measures concerning monetary affairs under any circumstances that could adversely affect the monetary stability in any of the two countries or negatively affect their mutual economic dealings.

3. The Palestinian side undertakes to make all local payments in the Jordanian dinar until the new Palestinian currency has been issued.

Second: Banking

1. The licensing of banks in PNA areas

1.1 The PNA will issue licences to commercial banks operating in the self-rule areas. This covers Jordanian banks opening branches in Palestinian territories.

1.2. The Jordanian and the Palestinian sides will offer the required facilities (under the existing legislations in Jordan and Palestine) for businesses to open branches or offices for the Jordanian or the Palestinian banks in either country if these banks have their head office in Jordan or in the Palestinian lands.

1.3. Licences issued by the Central Bank of Jordan to Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank which will later fall under the jurisdiction of the PNA will remain valid provided that these banks be subject to any new legislations issued by the PNA in the future.

The two sides agreed to coordinate their work concerning the licensing of new branches for Jordanian banks which have not been licensed before the signing of this agreement until the PNA takes charge of all authorities in the occupied West Bank.

2. Control and Supervision of Banking Operations

2.1. The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee from the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestine Monetary Authority to undertake the task of laying the foundations and the mechanism to conduct control and supervision on branches and offices of Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories in a manner tht would ensure sound liquidity for these banks. This procedure will continue until the Palestine Monetary Authority has finalised its own control and supervision system.

2.2. The Basel Agreement will serve as reference in matters related to the process of coordinating control over banks and the disribution of authorities between the two sides.

The Palestine Monetary Authority and the Central Bank of Jordan will exchange information and data on Jordanian banks and bank offices operating in the Palestinian lands via the joint committee mentioned under item 2.1.

They will also exchange statistics related to Jordanian dinars deposited in non-Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories.

The Central bank of Jordan will present the PNA through the joint committee any information on statistics connected with the activities of Palestinian banks that are operating or would be operating in Jordan and those of Jordanian banks operating on the West Bank.

2.4 The central Bank of Jordan will offer expertise and services to the Palestinian side to help it create a Palestine Monetary Authority and recruit cadres for banking operations within a programme conducted by the Central Bank of Jordan and the training facilities of banks in Jordan.

2.5. The Jordanian side will make available sufficient reserve liquidity in Jordanian dinars for Jordanian banks operating in the self-rule areas in accordance with rules to be set by the joint committee.

The two sides will conduct immediate consultations in case of emergency in line with policy to be worked out by the joint committee.

2.6. The two sides will conduct immediate consultations to deal with any emergency in monetary questions related to the circulation of Jordanian dinars in the self-rule regions.

This agreement will be revised at the request of any of the two parties and whenever the need arises.

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Hizballah Chief Announces Israeli MIA's Dead

NC2301071795 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has announced in Beirut that everyone is demanding that the fate of the Israeli soldiers who disappeared in Lebanon be known, although they have turned into dust.

Nasrallah said that no one inquires about the fate of hundreds of prisoners in the al-Khiyam prison camp.

This is the first time that Hizballah has announced that the Israeli MIA's in Lebanon are dead.

Casualties Reported on Clashes in South

NC2501104595 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the border zone reported that clashes broke out this morning between Israeli troops and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on one hand and an armed group on the other in one of the valleys adjacent to Bayt Lif. According to information, six members of the group were killed. The Israeli artillery shelled the vicinity of the valley and the adjacent villages and the resistance responded by returning fire at Kafra, Yatar, and the vicinity. The same information indicates that two Israeli soldiers were wounded and taken by helicopter to Israel. The Israeli operations are being led by (Yoram Bar), commander of the liaison unit in the south.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the attack, adding that the firing support unit shelled Israeli and SLA troop concentrations in Jabal Balat, Jabal Basil, Jabal Humayyid, and Bayt Lif.

For its part, the Amal Movement operations room has issued a statement saying that its fighters clashed with Israeli and Lahd [South Lebanese Army] troops this morning in the Sribbin and (Maryammin) valleys. The clashes, the statement added, left approximately six Israelis dead.

At 0900 the Israeli troops shelled Kafra village. Israeli troops advanced to the Sribbin and (Maryammin) valleys, close to Kafra and Yatar.

Nasrallah Says U.S. 'Protects Terrorism'

NC2501083195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the invitation of national and Islamic forces and parties, a massive rally was held yesterday afternoon at the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir auditorium at Beirut Arab University to commemorate the first death anniversary of Basil al-Asad, son of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Several political, partisan, intellectual, parliamentary, religious, and academic figures attended the rally. Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah led Hizballah's delegation, which also comprised Hajj Husayn Khalil, head of Hizballah's Political Bureau; his deputy 'Ammar al-Musawi, and Political Bureau member Hajj Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa. [passage omitted]

In his speech, al-Sayyid Nasrallah said: Basil was a man who fought corruption, a man of strategy. He chose to lead a life of austerity, the life of the military, to be close to fighters and to the mujahidin. He once said he wished he were a Lebanese so that he could carry a gun and fight Israel away from formalities, the formalities of regimes, he added.

His eminence quoted Basil al-Asad as commending the resistance and the mujahidin, who defied strategies and balances. He added: We miss him one year later, but we have not lost the hope that fills the hearts of the mujahidin and the honest people, who defeat the enemy on its own turf and push it to the corner. Referring to the Netanaya operation, he asked: Why should Iran and Syria be held responsible for this heroic operation? Is it because they are symbols of freedom and honor?

Commenting on the U.S. call to Syria not to be a refuge for what it called terrorists, al-Sayyid Nasrallah said: America is the first state that protects terrorism through its backing of the Zionist enemy, which does not hesitate to slit the abdomens of pregnant women. His eminence deplored the U.S. call to the Arab states to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty without asking the same of the Zionist enemy. Al-Sayyid Nasrallah added: Today, hope grows higher and higher. When you look around, you will find you are not alone and you feel strong. He praised President Hafiz al-Asad, who knows his place with the patriots, Arabists, mujahidin, and Islamists and who is defying the new world order.

His Eminence al-Sayyid Nasrallah stressed that the future is not for Labor, the Likud, or Zionism, but for Palestine and the Palestinians. He added: We look up to Syria as the last fortified bastion in the Arab world, one that rejects the international order in which Israel is the heart and master. He emphasized the need not to deal with Syria with narrowmindedness, because with it we are fighting the battle of the nation against Israel. He added: Everybody must act as a source of support for Syria in its battle with the enemy and must rise above sectarian, selfish, and partisan considerations. Therefore, we must benefit from the great security achievement which Syria accomplished for the Lebanese people and the Lebanese forces with a view to fortifying Lebanon, he added.

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Israel Held Responsible for 'Growing Violence'

JN2401162295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and reviewed the work of both the services and economic committees.

The Council of Ministers also discussed current political developments, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave an overall review of both Arab and international developments, particularly those related to the peace process, as well as the latest Syrian-U.S. contacts in this regard.

The Council of Ministers stressed that Israel should bear a major responsibility for the growing violence and the delay in peace talks because it adopts a hardline policy and rejects the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy on which the peace process was established.

The council noted that the Israeli Government is indeed acting in line with the positions of the Israeli opposition, which wants to usurp Arab rights and to control the occupied Arab territories, although that government is always claiming that it seeks peace. The council expressed its belief that Israel would not be able to occupy the land and have peace at the same time.

The council also stressed that Israel is avoiding just and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace principle, and said that Israel's attempts to impose a fait accompli under occupation constitute a major motive for resistance and the intifadah to continue against the Israeli forces.

The Council of Ministers then studied topics listed on its agenda, as well as other subjects presented to it, and made appropriate decisions on them.

'Suicide Attack' Said Oslo Agreement Failure

JN2401163495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Following the suicide attack by Palestinian resistance men at an Israeli bus station near Netanya, to the north of Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death and injury of scores of Israeli soldiers, Rabin's government sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip and gave a free hand to the Israeli intelligence services and security troops to storm the houses of Palestinian citizens, arrest them, and subject them to the ugliest form of torture.

This was not the first time Israel has sealed off the West Bank and Gaza. It has sealed them off several times since the signing of the Oslo Agreement. But this was the first time that Yitzhaq Rabin has clearly announced that he was giving the Israeli terror agencies extensive powers. This simply means that the next few days and weeks will witness further serious violations of human rights, such as torturing detainees, destroying houses, setting fire to crops, and sealing off wells. Also one cannot rule out the possibility that Israel will advise its settlers to commit crimes and massacres to terrorize the Palestinian people.

We do not think that anyone could disagree on the reasons for the growth in violence in the occupied territories. The Oslo Agreement, which was signed by Israel behind the back of the Arabs and the Palestinian people, did not bring peace to the region. Nor can it bring peace in the future because it lacks the basic foundations of the peace process launched in Madrid.

The agreement completely ignored the Palestinian people's rights, especially the right to self-determination. It also treated these people as a group of refugees who do not have a right to their land and homeland. The land is occupied, the homeland is usurped, and the future is black. Syria was the first to warn against the tragic, serious consequences of that agreement and warned against the continuation of Israel's evasive and deceptive policy, which aims to avoid the UN resolutions, ignore rights, and entrench occupation by signing partial, separate deals that do not bring the region closer to peace, but inflame the conflict.

What Syria warned against has indeed happened. The Palestinian territory is burning like a furnace, the Israeli suppression is increasing, and peace is still very remote from the region.

What is even more serious is the fact that Israel has adopted the Oslo Agreement as the model for all other tracks of negotiations. It has clearly refused to abide by the complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. It obstructed the Washington talks and foiled the U.S. Administration's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Israel also encouraged the extremist elements in the Zionist society to publicly declare that peace with the Arabs is some kind of a joke and that the language of the tank and the gun is the only one that can be used with the Arab states and the Palestinian people.

Everyone is aware that Israel's evasive and deceptive policies are responsible for obstructing the peace process. The Arabs, particularly Syria and Lebanon, are eager to achieve peace and have exerted immense efforts to ensure the success of the peace process. Israel has in the past rejected and is now rejecting the genuine just peace that would restore to each party its rights and establish the power of international law as the only term of reference.

If Israel dealt with the Palestinian people in the spirit of the UN Security Council resolutions, acknowledged the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and abided by withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, the West Bank and Gaza would have become an oasis of tranquility, security, and stability. If Israel

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pledged to withdraw from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and return to the borderlines of 4 June 1967, the comprehensive peace would have already become a reality in the region.

Since the Madrid Conference and until now, Israel has been sabotaging the peace efforts and squandering the peace opportunities one after another by its insistence on suspect deals that have nothing to do with peace and that contradict the principles of the Madrid Conference and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Instead of learning lessons from the past, the Israeli Government insists on continuing with its intransigent, tyrannical course that contradicts the genuine just peace, which is sought by the world community and is considered in the interest of all the peoples of the region and a guarantee for world security and peace.

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Afghanistan

Government Statement Offers Power Transfer

LD2401185695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Statement issued by the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, ISA; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots, sisters, and brothers: Over the past two years that the Islamic regime has been in power in our country, the hopes and expectations of the people and the Islamic state were that—with the consolidation and assurance of peace and security across the country—steps would be taken to [words indistinct] and the provision of the capability of a better life for the people of the country and that the pain of our oppressed people would be reduced.

Against that expectation, such a situation came about, and coup d'etats and conspiracies were launched as a result of foreign interference and the egotism of some groups. Not only was ointment not administered to the wounds of the people and the damages not removed, but additional and new pain was also caused.

An assessment of the realities shows that—during the time that the opponent was flaming war and violence and was causing the death of innocent people—the Islamic state, pursuing a policy of peace and reconciliation, had always tried to reduce tension and violence within the limits of possibility by showing flexibility and forbearance and by creating an atmosphere of peace, a better life for our compatriots, and a living environment void of threat and fear.

Despite enjoying a better military-political position in all regards and on all grounds, any time there was talk of peace and reconciliation, the state took the first steps and asked the opponents to play an effective role in the cessation of war and conflagration. At such an opportunity, when peace efforts in the country have acquired various dimensions, everybody looks at the proposals and policies of the Islamic state, the reactions of the opponent, and the efforts of the peace delegations. Among these efforts are the efforts of the United Nations and its peace delegation, with His Excellency Mahmoud Mestiri at its head.

The ISA [Islamic State of Afghanistan], taking into account the undertaking it has before the Muslim people of Afghanistan to pass on real information to its compatriots, conveys the following points:

1. Confirming our previous stance, the ISA is ready to transfer power and express support for the efforts of His Excellency Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, so that a mechanism can be set up, through joint efforts, to which power can be transferred as soon as possible.

2. The ISA has already asked the opposition groups to prepare themselves for talks, in order to restore peace and to end the fighting. Confirming emphatically its previous position, the ISA is once again asking the opposition groups—in particular, the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]—(?to express) readiness for direct and serious talks. [words indistinct]

Instead of holding talks east and west of Kabul or via various channels, it is better that such talks take place directly and earnestly so that the areas that have thus far been the areas of fighting and killing can be henceforth transformed into peace localities and can be used for talks and earnest contacts.

3. When the opposition groups—in particular, the Hezb-e—give a pledge of cooperation to the State and to the United Nations, during the next stage the state is ready to transfer power unilaterally and to express support for it.

4. The ISA rejects the Hezb-e's statement saying that efforts by His Excellency Mahmoud Mestiri toward finding a solution to the country's problems are not raising hope. We believe that Mestiri's efforts will achieve positive results if they are not sabotaged by the opposition forces and if instead cooperation is extended toward these efforts by the opposition. The ISA is ready for any cooperation.

5. The Hezb-e's statements concerning the formation of a government is a clear endeavor, from the ISA's point of view, to sabotage UN efforts and to destroy the peace process in the country. These statements, being contrary to the country's supreme interests, national unity, and stability, and to the strength of an Islamic system in Afghanistan, cannot be regarded as anything else except wishful thinking and a false desire for warmongering.

6. Confirming a previous statement on the continuation of a cease-fire, the ISA once again reiterates that ending the cease-fire and closing the roads supplying the people with essential goods has been regarded by the people as an anti-Islamic and anti-humane action. The cease-fire must continue, and the supply roads must remain open.

Dear Compatriots, the ISA rests in the present situation in a completely superior military and political situation, and the opponents and the opportunist forces have not been able to put even one step forward and have lost many positions in every action. Instead, the state position has become stronger and more consolidated with the passage of every day. The ISA is ready to manifest the necessary forbearance and flexibility to bring an end to the war and to ensure total peace. Therefore, the state expresses its complete commitment, honesty, and adherence to the aforementioned points. Once again, we ask the opponents to cooperate in the implementation of the peace process, taking into account the realities and needs of the Muslim and afflicted Afghan society, regardless of personal love and hatred.

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'Major Defeat' of Golboddin Militia in Ghazni

LD2401203895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ghazni Province today also witnessed the heaviest defeat of the Golboddin militia. According to reports received from Ghazni Province, fighting has been going on in this province for many days, and the Golboddin Hekmatyar forces faced a major defeat today.

The report adds that important and strategic positions of the Golboddin militia were captured by the mojahedin during the heavy fighting that started this morning in that province. The areas that include [words indistinct] Qala-e Aziz up to the Wardak border have been cleared of the presence of the Golboddin Hekmatyar militia. In addition, during the course of today's fighting, a large number of the militia were killed and captured by the mojahedin. In addition to the loss of life, a large quantity of heavy weapons' ammunition and two of the enemy's (?tanks) were also captured by the mojahedin.

Hekmatyar Said To Be Blocking UN Peace Efforts

LD2401195895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar announced two days ago that he has closed the supply roads to Kabul. Such an utterance was made at a time when our people did not see any facility provided along the supply roads leading to Kabul; these roads remained closed as before.

The recent utterance by Golboddin, on the one hand, proves a breach of his own promise and, on the other hand, it establishes the fact that he has no interest of any kind in the restoration of peace and an end to the fighting in the country. He has continuously been trying to foil the efforts by United Nations envoy Mahmoud Mestiri for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

Party Denies Report on Delegation's Abduction

LD2401210795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan has denied a report on the abduction of Ayatollah Salehi, a member of the party's supervisory council, and his colleagues.

The correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported [words indistinct] Ayatollah Salehi, Ayatollah Mohaqiq, and Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohammed (?Kabir) peace delegation of (?Baghlan), Parwan, and [words indistinct] provinces arrived in Kabul on 16 January to conduct talks with the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the opposition on the restoration of peace. They are still continuing their efforts.

A spokesman of the Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan strongly denied the BBC Radio report broadcast yesterday evening, alleging that the (?delegation) has been abducted; and the spokesman regarded the report as contrary to journalistic standards.

Hezb-e Eslami Commander Said To Join State Forces

LD2401172195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A number of people have again joined the ranks of the soldiers of the revolution. According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY report, recently esteemed Mullah Mohammmad Omar, a commander of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], along with his 11 [as heard] group leaders—Mohammad Yusuf, Soltan Mohammad, Besmillah, Samiollah, Abdol Shokur, Mohammad Taher, Malang, and Mohammad Eslam—joined the Islamic State in West Nuristan. The group handed over 55 light weapons, one RPG launcher, and a walkie-talkie to the 591st Brigade and came to the side of their mojahed brothers. [passage omitted]

Russian Warplanes, Artillery Bombard Badakhshan

LD2401190495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian warplanes bombarded the Darwaz district of Badakhshan Province on 23 January.

According to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY report, Russian warplanes and artillery forces bombarded residential areas of Darwaz District, Badakhshan Province yesterday [words indistinct]. As a result of the attack, four people were killed, and nine others were injured. [words indistinct]

The Russian land and air forces have attacked the territory of Afghanistan several times thus far, causing the loss of life and material.

Bangladesh

Bomb Blasts Hit Dhaka During Nationwide Strike

BK2501053295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0454 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Jan 25 (AFP)—Bomb blasts rocked Dhaka Wednesday [25 January] on the second day of a nationwide strike called by the opposition as thousands of police and paramilitary officers stood guard in the streets.

Militant picketers marched through the major streets shouting "Action, action, direct action" with riot police following them in trucks or on foot.

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Schools, shops and businesses were shut and vehicles, except for pedicabs, stayed off the streets here and in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

Tension was palpable on the road between Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's office and the Sonargaon Hotel, venue of an international investor's conference, scheduled to end later Wednesday.

Security sources said more personnel were deployed in the area Wednesday after a powerful home-made bomb was hurled Tuesday at Zia's motorcade as she travelled from the conference to her office. The bomb did not hit any of the cars in the convoy.

The sources said eight people, including two women, suspected to have carried out the attack were [word indistinct] with carrying explosives or detained under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974, under which police can detain them for 120 days without filing specific charges.

President Addresses Opening Session of Parliament

BK2301143695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called upon all those concerned to rise above party interests and minor differences of opinion and come forward with an identical program for resolving the country's problems. He was addressing the inaugural function of the 18th session of Parliament today. The session was presided over by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali.

Describing Parliament as the focal point of all national activities, the president stressed the need for tolerance for the opinions of others in the greater interest of democracy. He said it is a source of delight that significant progress has already been achieved in all sectors of national importance. In this connection, he cited some sectors in which the government has increased its allocations and implemented several projects. He said many other projects are now in various stages of implementation. The president said the government has been very successful in identifying development and reform programs and determining the priority for these programs. The inflation rate, which was 9 percent in FY 1990-91, is now down to 1.8 percent. The country's foreign exchange reserves have increased to about 130 billion taka, a record increase in recent years. The allocation of domestic resources for the Annual Development Program [ADP] has also increased significantly. About 38 percent of the ADP's total expenditures for the current year have been funded from internal resources. The president said that radio, television, and other mass media will acquaint the people with the government's overall development efforts. The mass media is playing a positive role in creating awareness among the people about the government's sincerity with regard to the country's well-being and prosperity.

Our Parliament correspondent reports that during the president's one hour and 23 minute speech, MP's repeatedly saluted him by thumping their desks. Earlier, the speaker announced the names of a five-member panel of speakers—Abdur Rab Chowdury, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Mohammad Shamsuddoha, Begum Farida Hasan, and Maulana Obaidul Haque. They will preside over the session in the absence of the speaker and deputy speaker. The Parliament also unanimously adopted an obituary resolution in memory of five eminent parliamentarians who have died. These parliamentarians have died since the conclusion of the 17th session of Parliament. The MP's who died are A.K. Mosharraf Hossain Akhand; Muslim League leader M.A. Mobin; Advocate Sajed Ali Miah, former member of the erstwhile Gano Parishad [People's Assembly]; and Reazuddin Ahmed and Azharul Islam, both former members of the erstwhile provincial assembly. One minute of silence was observed in Parliament to show respect for the departed leaders. Prayers were also offered for the salvation of their departed souls. The prayers were conducted by Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz tabled four ordinances in the Parliament. These include the People's Representation (Second Amendment) Ordinance 1994, Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1994, Khagrachari Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1994, and Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1994.

Political leaders, diplomats, and senior civil and military officials were present while the president delivered his speech to Parliament. The Parliament session will resume next Wednesday [25 January] at 1830.

India

Paper Calls For Rethink on Exhibiting Arjun Tank

BK2401073795 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 24 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Point to Ponder"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision to parade India's first indigenous Main Battle Tank (MBT), Arjun, at the Abu Dhabi international defence exhibition, should bring much satisfaction to the Indian defence research organisation which has been working on the tank for more than two decades. The tank for reasons known best to the defence establishment, has faced several hurdles on its road to induction into armoured regiments. Newspaper reports have suggested that the Army has not been too keen on inducting the tank, although it has agreed in principle to do so. The reluctance of the Army to accept Arjun as its principal ground warfare vehicle is said to be due to many shortcomings of the tank, the chief objection being that it was too underpowered for its weight. While this is a valid objection, the tank itself should be viewed in the context of the shortage of resources and the need to cut down on

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imports and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has attempted to meet the objections by importing the gun and addressing some other shortcomings in the tank and hopefully the vehicle will be operational in the regiments in the next couple of years.

The episode, however, has served to focus on the less-than-comfortable relationship between the armed forces and the DRDO. The former, used to arms imports for the last four decades, are yet to reconcile themselves to self-reliance. The lessons thrown up by the break-up of the Soviet Union which resulted in the collapse of the supply line does not seem to have sunk into the armed forces. China learnt the folly of depending on foreign arms supplies three decades ago. Its arms industry not only met the challenge by indigenous production, though based on original Soviet designs, but is now earning billions of dollars through exports. At some point of time, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) must have been sceptical of the Chinese arms industry giving it the top-of-the line equipment. But desperation is the mother of self-reliance, and far from derision, the Chinese arms currently evoke grudging admiration, be it the F-7 fighter, the Dong Feng and CSS-4 missiles, or the Xia sub-marines, or, for that matter, the Type-80 tanks.

There are however wider implications to Arjun being displayed at the Abu Dhabi international defence exhibition. This means that India is at long last entering the global arms bazaar as an exporter. Although countries with far smaller military establishments have been selling arms across the world, successive governments in New Delhi have shied away in the past from jeopardising this country's stated stand against the proliferation and trade of weapons of mass destruction. Clearly, it is tempting to follow the example of others and make millions of dollars to subsidise the cost of our own security needs. At the same time, this does entail a basic shift in national policy and knocks the bottom out of India's hitherto shrill rhetoric against international arms merchants. The Government would do well to ponder the pros and cons before taking such a crucial step.

First Reported Manipur Car Bomb Kills 2 Police

BK2401141895 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 95 p 22

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Imphal, Jan. 13 (UNI) Two commandos were today killed at Yanglam Leikai here in the first ever car-bomb explosion in insurgency-ridden Manipur, the police said.

In a calculated move, three youths brought a Maruti Gypsy close to the house of retired Additional Superintendent of Police Babudhon Singh at Yanglam Leikai around 7 a.m. and parked it there. They got off the car, fired at one of the tyres which was punctured, and left the place.

The incident was then reported to police. A team of police commandos came to the spot and as two of them opened the door of the Gypsy, it exploded killing them on the spot.

Police said that the militants had planted the bomb inside the car.

South African President Arrives on First Visit

MB2401175095 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1604 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Report by Neil Lewis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, India, Jan 24 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela arrived in New Delhi, India shortly after 8 PM [1430 GMT] on Tuesday [24 January] for an official four-day visit. It is his first official visit to India since his inauguration in may last year.

The president was given a red carpet welcome by Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Salmen Khurashid and a host of other dignitaries as he alighted from his jet at the Palam Air Force Base just outside New Delhi.

Dressed in his inimitable casual style, the president warmly shook hands with his hosts before greeting Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo and his entourage.

Mr Nzo flew in to India early on Tuesday as part of an advance party preparing for Mr Mandela's trip.

After the greetings, Mr Mandela and his entourage were whisked away in a motor cavalcade to the city where he will rest before beginning a gruelling schedule on Wednesday morning.

Accompanying Mr Mandela were his grand-daughter Rochelle Mtirara, his special advisor Mr Ahmed Kathrada, his personal physician Dr J P Theron and Director of Communications Mr Joel Netshitenzhe.

A South African team that arrived earlier will form part of the official delegation to India.

They include Mr Nzo, Foreign Affairs Director General Rusty Evan, Mr Nzo's Administrative Secretary Ms O Ndlovu, Protocol Officer Kingsley Makubela, Director in the Foreign Affairs Department Jerry Matsile, Public Relations Officer in the President's Office Priscilla Naidoo and Ms Ella Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's great-grand-daughter.

Apart from signing technical, co-operation, scientific and cultural agreements with India, Mr Mandela will also hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Mr P V Narasimha Rao.

He will be the main guest at India's 46th independence celebrations on Thursday. Mr Mandela is also scheduled to deliver key addresses at award ceremonies, state functions and business banquets.

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He will also visit the memorial place of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi cut his political teeth in South Africa earlier this century after campaigning against racial bias on the part of the then rulers.

The issue of trade between South Africa and India is regarded as important in light of the United States securing trade deals for American companies amounting to billions of dollars during a recent visit to India by American Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

Trade between South Africa and India has been minimal after it imposed sanctions on Pretoria in 1948. But, it has slowly grown. Last year, India's trade with South Africa rose to about R350 million [rands].

Mr Nzo referred to this extensively when he arrived in New Delhi, saying trade and investment by India were part of the main planks of increased and better bilateral relations between the two countries.

The visit is the first to India by Mr Mandela since October 1990 when he was awarded the "Jewel of India" prize.

Cancels Part of Trip

MB2501114295 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Mandela has canceled the section of his trip to India which was to have been on ANC business. He will leave for home on Friday [27 January] at the end of a four-day official visit.

Speaking in New Delhi, President Mandela's spokesman, Mr. Joel Netshitsenzhe, emphasized that President Mandela would return home because of urgent business in South Africa and not for health reasons.

He said that President Mandela had taken the decision before leaving for New Delhi and on the basis of discussions with his colleagues and Indian officials.

President Mandela will be the guest of honor at India's Republic Day parade tomorrow. He will hold talks today with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, and address a news conference tomorrow.

* Chinese To Aid in Steel Plant Operation

95AS0164A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A million-ton steel plant and three pig iron plants will soon be set up in West Bengal, with Chinese technical knowhow and equity participation.

Four memorandums of understanding [MoUs] to this effect were signed, at Writers' Buildings, on Friday [2 December]. The signatories were the Chinese National Scientific Instruments, the Materials Import and Export Corporation, the Central Iron and Steel Research Institute besides four Indian private-sector companies.

The Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, who was present during the signing of the MoUs, expressed his satisfaction but refused to attach any political significance to Communist China's involvement in the industries of Left Front-ruled West Bengal.

"We welcome all investments in the State. It was lacking till a few years ago", Mr Basu said and added: "For me Chinese involvement has no extra significance".

The State Commerce and Industries Minister, Mr Bidyut Ganguli, said the integrated steel plant would be set up in collaboration with the Apeejay Group of Industries at a cost of about Rs 1,900 crores.

Two pig iron plants of 1.3 lakh tons would be set up. It would involve about Rs 80 crores each. The Modern Group of Industries and Sarachi Securities Ltd would be the collaborators.

A 3.4 lakh-ton plant, involving about Rs 245 crores, would be set up in collaboration with Stiefelund Schuch India Ltd.

The Chinese involvement would pertain to:

- Providing technical knowhow
- Participating in equity shares
- Buying back a portion of the production and
- Helping in exports, the Minister said.

Mr Ganguli added that the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation might also participate in the equity shares.

Mr Ganguli said that the details of the deals would be finalized within the next few months.

The plants were likely to be set up at Haldia, Durgapur and Kharagpur, he said.

A team of Indian industrialists would also visit China on a trade mission, the Minister said.

Paper Urges Speedy Resumption of Pakistan Talks

BK2401135095 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 23 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Earlier the Better"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement by Indian Foreign Secretary Srinivasan reflects the supreme confidence of Indian diplomats that India is prepared to hold talks with Pakistan on all issues, including those that were referred to in Pakistan's two nonpapers, which are neither official documents nor letters outlining the country's official stand. Pakistan sent these two nonpapers last year. Since then it has been indulging in malicious propaganda that India is not prepared to discuss them. Pakistan conveniently forgets to mention that it has received six such

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nonpapers from India. The Pakistani nonpapers mention making arrangements for a plebiscite in Kashmir and state Pakistan's conditions for resuming bilateral talks between the two countries. Obviously, no conditions for resuming talks can be imposed through these nonpapers. If the Pakistani leadership has a clean conscience, it must come forward first. It is impossible to reduce the forces deployed in Kashmir, completely repeal the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act, and allow the international media to enter Kashmir without any restrictions before asking Pakistan to resume talks. As a matter of fact, Pakistan has no intention of resuming talks with India. It merely wants to internationalize the Kashmir issue. When our foreign secretary offered to resume the talks during his recent visit to Pakistan, their foreign secretary responded with the assertion that his country's people were opposed to resuming talks so quickly. Even now it does not appear that the Pakistani leadership would admit to a change in public opinion, even though U.S. Defense Secretary Perry clearly suggested during his visit to India and Pakistan that there is no chance of a war between the two countries. The two countries must come forward to solve the Kashmir tangle. In this context, our humble submission is that if talks are to be held, why should they be delayed?

If it wants to talk to India, Pakistan is not likely to gain anything by snapping all contacts and relations between the two countries. Pakistan, however, does not desire any contact between the peoples of the two countries. That is why it closed the Indian Consulate in Karachi. Certainly the desire of the two peoples to solve the few remaining issues would be greater if they had a better understanding. Hence the first requirement is the normalization of relations between the two countries. Pakistan must realize once and for all that it can never defeat India in a war; it is impossible to snatch Kashmir away from India at the point of a bayonet. It is India's heartfelt desire for the political process to begin in Kashmir and for the misled terrorists and extremists to return to the mainstream. If human rights violations are to be stopped in Kashmir, Pakistan must exercise control over its intelligence agency, the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence], which follows the Army's commands more quickly than the requests of politicians. Wars cannot solve any problem. Anyway, they eventually end in negotiations and peace talks. Hence our earnest request to Pakistan: The earlier the better.

Editorial: 'Too Much Being Made' of Brown Deals

BK2401134295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 19 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Wart, Not Bounty"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A little too much is being made of the $4-billion worth of contracts signed during the first two days of the US commerce secretary, Mr Ronald Brown's visit. There are two reasons for this. One is that all the investment proposals got lumped together mostly on account of procedural delay and lack of policy transparency and not because Secretary Brown brought them as part of his baggage. The second is that the business deals agreed to are, as yet, investment proposals. Actual implementation is a different kettle of fish altogether. A recent CMIE [Centre for the Monitoring of Indian Economy] survey of 3,000 project proposals shows that while investment intentions have ballooned by a fourth in the 12 month period ended December 1994, actual implementation has snail-paced at 4 per cent.

The $4 billion of proposed American investments would be channelled into power, petrochemicals and telecom. The policy for private participation in these sectors has one common feature: arbitrariness. The present preponderance of discretion in the award of contracts leads to avoidable delays in implementation. Awards are challenged in court, as happened in the cellular phones tender. At times, the government backtracks, as in the US West case. The firm's discretionary Cabinet clearance for a $1 billion pilot telecom scheme in select secondary switching areas (SSA) in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, got restricted, again on a purely discretionary basis, to SSAs in Tamil Nadu alone. In the power sector, the seeming open-ended haggling in project negotiations has meant that of the nearly 100 proposals received for close to 60,000 mw, barely 18 have made any headway beyond the MoU [memorandum of understanding] stage. And there is no sight of financial closure in any one project. In the oil sector, while there have been five rounds of bidding for exploration and two for development of blocks, the only real progress in terms of private-sector participation has been just so many paper documents and allegations of biased contracts. What is needed is to institutionalise procedural simplicity and not MoU signing sprees contingent on the visits of foreign dignitaries.

* Finance Minister's Speech in Riyadh Reported

95AS0176A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Dec 94 p 19

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United News of India, Riyadh, December 5—Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh today announced that the rupee would be made fully convertible on capital account in about a year. "All foreign exchange controls would be a thing of the past in a year's time," he said in an address to the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry here this afternoon.

Mr Manmohan Singh urged Saudi businessmen to take a fresh look at the investment opportunities opening up in India, especially in the core and infrastructural sectors, and promised that the government would remove all remaining hurdles hampering the flow of investment and reduce taxes even further in the coming years.

He also said that India was ready to sign an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation to make Saudi investments in India more profitable and a bilateral investment protection guarantee treaty to offer "credible protection" to all such investments.

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Mr Singh pointed out that the government had recently made the rupee convertible on the current account and fulfilled all the conditions of article eight of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He assured potential investors from Saudi Arabia that there would be no restrictions at all on repatriation of dividends and profits.

The finance minister was in Riyadh for the fourth meeting of the Indo-Saudi joint commission, which concluded here yesterday. He told Saudi businessmen present at today's meeting that the discussions at the two-day session demonstrated the political commitment of both countries to facilitate greater interaction between the Indian and Saudi private sectors.

Mr Singh dwelt at length on the new economic policies being pursued by the Indian government to globalise and modernise the country's economy. Presentations were also made by former FICCI [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry] president V. L. Dutt and Industrial Development Bank of India chairman S. M. Khan, who accompanied the minister on the visit as part of a high-level business delegation.

Praising the success achieved by the Saudi government in privatisation, Mr Singh said India too had recognised that its private sector must become the engine of growth.

Referring to the 132 investment proposals submitted by the Saudi side at the joint commission, Mr Singh said the Indian industry would study the projects and come up with credible offers soon. India would soon send a similar list of investment opportunities available for Saudi investors.

The meeting was attended by a large number of leading Saudi businessmen, who engaged the minister in a lively discussion.

In response to points raised by the Indian delegation, the representatives of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry said efforts were being made to ease the visa regulations for Indian businessmen wishing to visit the kingdom on business trips. Some steps had already been taken in this regard, they said.

The Saudi side also pointed out that they expected the kingdom to come out of its present economic difficulties by 1995 or 1996 and stressed that this was the best time to invest in Saudi Arabia. In this context, they drew attention to the vast natural resources like oil, gold, iron, bauxite and so on available in the kingdom.

* Writer Discusses RSS Change in Agenda

95AS0177A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Dec 94 p 9

[Article by Prasun Sonwalkar: "Swadeshi Now RSS' Pet Agenda"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Times of India News Service, New Delhi, December 5—After Ayodhya, what? The question that has nagged the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) family since the demolition of the disputed structure in December 1992 has led the octopus-like organisation to find an answer in the economic reforms undertaken by the Narasimha Rao government.

The organisation's single-most visible fact, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a severe beating politically after the demolition, when it lost the state assembly elections in November 1993, and is today struggling to come near the position portrayed as a party that went against the law, but also exhausted the only card on which it was confident: Ayodhya.

Notwithstanding the feeble attempts at criticising the economic reforms of the Congress government, the party—indeed the entire Sangh Parivar—today presents the picture of a spider caught in its own web. Economy is something that the leading lights of the organisation are not comfortable with. True, the party has some individuals who have a fair amount of understanding of the economic forces at work, but its responses since the beginning of the reforms in 1992 has lacked clarity and shown it in a poor light. In fact, in some instances, several leading BJP functionaries have openly praised the reforms, which clearly went against the principal opposition party.

During the year since the electoral drubbing in Uttar Pradesh and other former BJP-ruled states, slowly and steadily, the Sangh Parivar has tried to put together a more coherent response to the ongoing process of economic reforms even as the BJP—primarily its President L. K. Advani—has tried to come to terms with the political reality that it is no more as near to power at the Centre as it appeared before the December 1992 demolition.

After considerable thinking within the RSS family, a new doctrine has been espoused: "rashtriya suraksha" and "swadeshi." The threat faced by the country on various frontiers has been cleverly linked to the swadeshi concept.

In the process, the RSS family hopes to touch on nationalistic chords as well as take on the multinationals companies (MNCs) who have gained virtually unfettered access to the Indian market since the reforms were undertaken. Towards this end, a new organisation called the Swadeshi Jagran Manch has been launched.

Its office was recently inaugurated by the veteran RSS leader Dattopant Thengdi, who founded the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh four decades ago, and which, today, has staked claim to being the largest trade union in the country. His involvement has added considerable weight to the new organisation that hopes to make a much bigger "splash" in the countryside than the RSS-sponsored programmes related to the Ayodhya issue did.

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"In terms of intensity, the 'swadeshi' agitation would be at least five times stronger than the Ayodhya-related programmes," according to S. Gurumurthy, the Madras-based chartered accountant entrusted with the task of charting out the strategy and course of action to highlight the "swadeshi" concept.

As RSS chief Rajendra Singh puts it, the RSS has decided to participate in the Rashtriya Suraksha Swadeshi company launched by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch from most of the localities in big cities and about one and-a-half lakh villages throughout the country. During this campaign, people will be apprised of the dangers facing the country, relevant resolutions would be passed in meetings and these would be sent to the government. Oaths would also be administered to participants for using indigenous products in their daily lives.

Insiders in the RSS, however, admit that there are several inherent problems in carrying out the mandate given to the new "swadeshi" organisation.

First, the concept does not seem to have percolated down even within the Sangh Parivar. Secondly, due to the spate of new entrants into the BJP during the last three years—most of them not attuned to the RSS school of thought—are not too keen on giving up the best thrown up by the consumer boom spawned by the economic reforms. Top BJP leaders have a far-from-spartan or frugal lifestyle, and some are indeed known for their new lifestyles after having come to power in several states earlier, and now in the national capital as well. These elements are not too enthusiastic about the "swadeshi" drive, and there have been umpteen occasions who frontline leaders of various RSS-affiliated organisations have clashed during internal meetings on this issue.

Significantly, Mr Thengdi has managed to involve some politicians in the drive, and has roped them in during the December 1-15 campaign. Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, is one of the leaders scheduled to share the platform with Mr Thengdi and other RSS leaders during the public meetings in various parts of the country. Other dignitaries include Menaka Gandhi, George Fernandes, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, Farooqui and Chimanbhai Mehta.

On the issue of opposing unfettered entry of MNCs into the country, it would appear that, for once, the RSS and the Left parties are one. It is significant that one of the leaders scheduled to participate in the "swadeshi" programmes is Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Farooqui. Mr Thengdi hopes to drum up a welter of protest in the country against the economic reforms.

In brief, the RSS stand as espoused by Mr Singh is: "The U.S. wants India to open its vast market for its produce as its economy is on the decline and it is facing problems of unemployment and price rise. Therefore it wants to push its MNCs into India with the help of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). The economic policy of our government is enabling them to gobble up Indian industries, one after another. It will be difficult for our small scale industries, which employ about 35 million people, to face the onslaught... the long-term effects of GATT are likely to render Indian farmers dependent on foreign companies which are entering in the areas of seeds, fertilisers, power etc. Our government is providing them with greater facilities than our own companies. The only way to come out of this serious situation is to arouse the spirit of 'swadeshi' and self-reliance among the masses."

The RSS has linked this stand with the alleged policy of minority appeasement, infiltration from Bangladesh, the Kashmir imbroglio and the activities of Christian missionaries in Arunachal Pradesh. How and how much of this will be received by the people remains to be seen, but it would clearly not go down well with a large section of the middle class—which the BJP claims to the major constituency—which is not too unhappy with the boom in consumerism.

At the same time, the "swadeshi" drive is also seen as one intended to protect the interests of traders and local industrialists who have for long known to be one of the strongest supporters of the BJP and the RSS.

* Gorkha Leader Sends Letter on Lands Absorption

95AS0169A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Dec 94 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Subash Ghisingh, GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supremo, in an open letter—dated December 10—to M.P.s [Members of Parliament], leaders of different political parties and "leading citizens" of the country appealed to make a "political issue" of the demand for legislation for formal absorption of lease-hold territories of Kalimpong, Assam Dooars, Bengal Dooars and the ceded areas of Darjeeling into India.

The Supreme Court had dismissed his petition on November 25, seeking a direction to the Union Government to enact a law for the purpose.

Mr Justice Kuldip Singh and Mr Justice B. L. Hansaria observed that but for the presence of Mr Ghisingh, the court would have treated the petition as a "misuse of the process of law". The judges held that it was a political issue.

Mr Ghisingh, who on the eve of the hearing had said in Calcutta that the issue of the incorporation of the ceded land had elbowed out all other issues from his political agenda, decided to put the ball in the court of the legislators.

He has begun from where the Supreme Court's chapter ended. A leaflet published by the GNLF Central Committee and attached to the "open letter" has the "actual

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outcome of the Supreme Court admission hearing" and an observation purported to have been made by the Assistant Solicitor General: "Yes, this is a political issue."

The "open letter" pleads that the "commitment" of the Assistant Solicitor General, Mr Altaf Ahmed, in Supreme Court "is also the commitment of the Government of India... The Government of India should not take it lightly as a minor or a local issue but it should take it as a serious national issue. The Gorkha National Liberation Front did its level-best to convince the Central leaders in this matter for the last 14 years but they always tried to keep the country in the dark by deliberately bypassing it."

It also asks: "How long the Central leaders can continuously bypass or ignore it against the national interest" and adds, "There is a big question or a serious challenge to all the leaders of the national parties and leading citizens of India in the context of national integration and its sovereignty."

The "letter" asserts: "No doubt the Gorkha National Liberation Front is a local or regional party, but it vehemently opposes and condemns the silent politics of the Central Government for not taking any interest to incorporate the said areas into the Indian Union."

According to Mr Ghisingh's "letter" the sole responsibility lies with the ruling party at the Centre for "this particular supreme political and constitutional task of incorporation or non-incorporation of the said areas into the Indian Union".

It says Mr Ghisingh wanted to reveal the "truth of the serious matter in the best national interest". It was up to the M.P.s, leaders and leading citizens to make it a political issue for the enactment of parliamentary legislation as permitted by the Indian Constitution under Article 1-3(C), Article 2, Article 4 and Article 368.

The "letter" ends with the assertion that the two judges of the Supreme Court had "also certified the issue as political".

* CPI-M Conferences Expose Party Fissure

95AS0174A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] party conferences being held presently, have exposed a deep fissure within the organization with some of the prominent Ministers and leaders losing their grip in the party apparatus.

Speakers—not belonging to the official group—put the leadership on the docks following their acts of omission and commission.

The official group's attempt to run their opponents out of energy by dragging the branch committee and local committee-level meetings till early the next day, have failed to produce the desired results.

Since the election of office bearers has been fixed at the end of the conferences—members of the group currently dominating the party organization—fixed the election late at night hoping that their opponents would leave the conference before participating in the elections.

But their hopes seem to have been belied.

In Calcutta, a Minister and a member of the State Secretariat, siding with a former Calcutta District Committee Secretary, and forming a nexus with a prominent leader and Minister from the North 24-Parganas, resorted to unfair means in the election.

There were allegations of intimidation of members at the time of polling too.

The Minister from the North 24-Parganas, has, however, been losing his own clout to retain his control of his own district committee.

In the Baranagar and Barrackpore areas the panel of candidates, put up by his followers, were virtually routed.

In the election to the local committees in Lake Town and Salt Lake, his candidates have received a drubbing as they lost both the elections to the rival group losing both the elections to the rival group in the party.

To add to the Minister's woes, the rival group mustered enough strength to get majority of their candidates elected for attending the zonal conference as delegates of concerned local committees.

In Calcutta, the present secretary of the district committee—a trade union leader and Minister, has been fighting hard to foil the manoeuvres of the other group.

Iran

Ministry Official Denies Lockerbie Allegations

LD2401163395 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman, here Tuesday [24 January], denied the recent allegations made by certain British media on Iran's involvement in the Lockerbie affairs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly denied allegations over its involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, in which some 270 passengers and crew members were killed.

Refuting the allegations as "baseless", Mahmoud Mohammadi told IRNA that such claims are made in line with propaganda campaign against Iran and aim to tarnish the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Mohmmadi said the Zionists and certain western media resorting to such propaganda campaign are trying to divert world's public opinion from their own state-sponsored terrorism across the world, Middle East, in particular. [sentence as received]

The spokesman further pointed out that Israel and certain western circles through such absurd allegations attempt to justify their suppressive policies and practices against the freedom loving nations of the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran itself is one of the main victims of the terrorism and, therefore, has always condemned terrorism and terrorist activities in any form, the Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded.

Daily Assails New U.S., UK 'Propaganda' Campaign

LD2401231295 Tehran IRNA in English 2200 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, (IRNA)—According to a fax received here today from Tehran's english-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES" an editorial for Wednesday's issue of the daily lambasts the new propaganda compaign against Iran by the British and the U.S. intelligence sources.

Two years after Libya has been targeted as the main country behind the bombing of the New York-bound Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, the British and the U.S. intelligence sources and the western journalists have ganged up again to victimize yet another nation, namely Iran, writes the editorial.

The so-called recently-declassified documents of the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has received abundant coverage in the British press. According to these reports, former Iranian Interior Minister, Hojjatoleslam Mohtashami, whom they erroneously referred to as Ayatollah Mohtashami, paid 10 million dollars in cash and gold to the Palestinian group named Abu Nidhal, and to other organizations in order to carry out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and other attacks, writes the TEHRAN TIMES.

Iranian Foreign Ministry has categorically denied that Iran had any involvement in the bombing. This media campaign aims to isolate Iran because they do not want to see an independent power in the Middle East. The fact that Iran has refused to bow down to the Western/Zionist pressures in the region makes Iran an undesirable country for the Zionists and their supporters in the West, says the daily.

In fact, such baseless allegations are periodically leveled at Iran. The Iranian nation is used to this regular propaganda campaign by the Zionists and the West. Iran is so used to such baseless and yet predictable allegations that the allegations themselves are responded to with a certain sense of ennui. There is no excitement in the tone of response if the respondent has seen the charges coming, writes the TEHRAN TIMES.

The daily comments that if the allegations had even a grain of truth to them, the West and the Zionists would have made sure that international bodies would have taken action against Iran. The Western/Zionist allegations do not have any leg to stand on.

They would not withstand the acid test of any fair court even in the West. These charges amount to shots in the dark, projectiles in the unfair and unholy war of words that the West and the Zionists have begun against Iran, since The success of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The editorial also says despite the pale color of these projectiles, they hurl them against Iran in the hope that one of them will land at the heart of this valiant nation that has decided to adopt an independent course of action in its politics.

The West might think that they are weakening the Islamic Republic with such charges. But as last year's charges against Iran in the bombings in Buenos Aires and London backfired and discredited all Western sources of intelligence and their journalists. This, the Lockerbie involvement charge, too shall pass as yet another baseless accusation for whose justification the West and the Zionists will be miserably at a loss, further adding to Iran's credibility as a country that wants peace and cooperation with all countries, save the Zionists and the U.S., the daily concludes.

U.S. Envoy Cited on Share of Azeribaijani Oil

NC2501070795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The American ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan has said that Washington will withdraw from the oil consortium in Azerbaijan if Iran participates in Caspian Sea oil exploration activities. A few months ago a consortium of several oil companies signed an agreement with Baku on oil exploration in three oilfields in Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan has handed 5 percent of its 30-percent share in this agreement to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The American ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan said yesterday that Iran should have no share in this consortium.

Deputy Foreign Minister Opposes Regional Tension

LD2401213295 Tehran IRNA in English 2038 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ala'ddin Borujerdi here today in a meeting with the visiting permanent secretary of Thailand's Foreign Ministry Pracha Kunakasem, underlined that Iran is against creating tension in the region.

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Borujerdi also added that establishment of peace and stability in the region is a fundamental policy of the Islamic republic of Iran.

The Zionist regime with holding tens of nuclear heads is the major threat to the security of the Middle East region, said Borujerdi, adding that the U.S., with its giving support to the Zionist regime, added to the tension in the region.

Describing the latest developments in the southeastern Asian region particularly the Cambodian problem, Kasam said that the ASEAN is a suitable framework for the southeastern regional cooperation. He said with the inclusion of Vietnam as a member state of the ASEAN the cooperation have widely been expanded.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a major framework for cooperation and with the recent resolutions passed in the meeting of the heads of the OPEC's member countries in Indonesia some important trade and economic developments are to be established in the twenty-first century, Pracha Kunakasem concluded.

In the meeting, the two sides also expressed their positive views on a Foreign Ministerial joint meeting of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN member countries.

Daily Notes Trade Activity in Central Asia

LD2501095995 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA—There is a flurry of economic activities in our area these days which augurs well for the countries of the region, a morning daily wrote Wednesday [25 January].

"Central Asia, free from fetters of Communism is bustling with life", the English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said adding that, landlocked but rich in natural resources, it is eager for access to international markets and in Islamic Iran it has found the nearest and safest connection to the high seas.

In fact, it noted, the corridor opened at Sarakhs provides Central Asia with an excellent view of the outside world by courtesy of Iran's up and coming free trade zone at Chahbahar.

"The importance of Chahbahar, situated strategically on the Gulf of Oman near to the Pakistani border, was brought into sharper focus recently during President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent tour of Sistan and Baluchestan province", the editorial stated.

As a matter of fact, the daily wrote, the port with its excellent natural harbor and other facilites, not only holds the key to the prosperity of the local people but also to that of eight members of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

It underlined that, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan can all bank upon Chahbahar port as an economic lifeline.

"To the east it brings Pakistan closer to Central Asia, in view of the fact that Iranian authorities with the welfare of the local people at heart, have built a road all along the coast to the Pakistani border," it noted.

Referring to the absence of a paved road between Karachi and Chahbahar, the paper said that such a gap could adversely affect both the economy and politics of the region.

The missing link between Karachi and the Iranian border, has not only kept the Pakistani small ports from developing their rich fishery potentials but has given opportunity to outsiders to fish in troubled waters away from public glare, the article continued.

"It is hoped that our brothers in Pakistan would get a bit more serious on economy, and realize that the paving of the Makran Coast westwards, not only halves the distance that Pakistani convoys take to travel from Karachi to Zahedan via the bumpy Quetta track (1,500 kms and over three days) but the risks of hijacks they run by using the more dangerous and offbeat Qandahar trail", it stressed.

Iran for its part would be ready to cooperate in the interests of the greater goals of regional solidarity, the paper reiterated, but at the same time, it naturally views with concern reports that Pakistan's sovereignty has been put at stake by the handing of part of its soil at Gwadar to Oman, although a friendly state.

"Oman is also a brotherly country in our neighborhood, and could well build the Islamic bridge to Central Asia through Chahbahar, if it could show the maturity to resist the tempting urge to take the disastrous U.S.-Zionist bait," the daily concluded.

Anti-Narcotics Efforts With Pakistan To Increase

LD2401174095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan are to increase their cooperation in their campaign against drug smugglers using the two countries' borders.

Mr. Fallah, the headquarters secretary in charge of confronting narcotics smugglers, announced the above news and added: On the basis of an agreement that was signed in Tehran at the end of the three-day tripartite session of Iran, Pakistan and the United Nations, Tehran and Islamabad—with the supervision of the United Nations—will soon implement a regional scheme for confronting drug convoys.

He added: Based on this three-year agreement, in addition to strengthening their security forces stationed on

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the joint border and implementing coordinated and simultaneous operations against smugglers, the two countries are also to build a total of 42 border posts on the routes used by drug smuggling convoys. The number of these posts is to be increased in the future.

He then referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's ceaseless campaign against narcotics smugglers and said Iran's efforts had received the acknowledgement of international organizations.

Moreover, he announced that Iran intended to start cooperating with the Central Asian states in the areas of confronting drug smugglers.

Over '15,000' Iranian POWs Still Held in Iraq

LD2401143695 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 24, IRNA—Head of the commission in charge of prisoners of war affairs, Abdollah Najafi, said here Monday that according to the latesat survey more than 15,000 Iranian POWs are still held in Iraq.

Najafi in a ceremony commemorating heroism and resistance of the POWs and those missing in action and the anniversary of establishment of the commission, said that Iran is ready to exchange prisoners of war. He also said that the Iraqi Government by resorting to negative excuses has always refrained from exchanging prisoners of war.

Najafi added a special exhibition of works of 5,000 Iraqi prisoners of war will be opened during the Ten-Day of Dawn ceremonies, February 1-11, marking the return to Iran of the late imam Khomeyni from exile and the victory of the Islamic reveloution.

Rafsanjani Opens IRGC Seminar in Tehran

LD2401170495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An exhibition and a seminar on the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps' [IRGC] participation in reconstruction projects opened in Tehran today in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

It was announced that the IRGC participated in reconstruction projects worth up to 1.08 billion rials during the First Five-Year Plan, which engaged 70 percent of the IRGC's technical and engineering capacity. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Comments on Energy Policy

LD2501093295 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA—Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, here Tuesday [24 January] stressed that the production of energy policies should take into account economically, technological, and environmental factors.

Addressing the 'National congress of energy and economy', he [words indistinct] fast growth of energy consumption in various sectors, lack of balance between growth of production with consumption of energy, and low level of energy productivity as compared to other countries and improper use of energy in the country.

The minister of energy, Bijan Zanganeh, also talking in the seminar, said that energy consumption rate could be slashed down by one third through utilizing proper policies in various sectors. He said that the annual growth rate of energy consumption in Iran has been at 5.5 percent in the past decade.

Zanganeh further remarked that at present the total value of energy consumption in the country was around dlrs. 14 billion, adding that according to the experts the current rate of consumption could be reduced by 40 percent without [word indistinct] public welfare which would gain the country dlrs. 5.6 million per year.

'Anti-State' Demonstrations by Soccer Fans Noted

NC2501092995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes among Iranian soccer fans turned into anti-state demonstrations in Tehran yesterday. Clashes started when the fans of two soccer clubs attacked each other in the stadium. When law-enforcement forces entered the scene to establish calm, the clashes turned into anti-state demonstrations.

The demonstrators clashed with the security forces and set fire to the stadium while shouting slogans against the Islamic regime and its leadership.

Opposition forces report that hundreds were wounded in the incidents. However, these figures have not yet been confirmed.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views U.S. 'Evenhanded' Nuclear Stance

BK2401112495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has emphasized the need to develop manpower with technology on sound scientific basis to overcome the problem of underdevelopment. She was inaugurating the National University of Sciences and Technology, established as a joint civil and military venture in the field of high technical education, in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister said the country needed clear-cut priorities for energy, economic, agricultural, and educational growth and her government was concentrating in these vital sectors. The people's government accords high priority to science and technology and the cabinet had already approved the new technology

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policy. She said the implementation of the policy is in full swing and the government has decided to institute a technology development fund for which 400 million rupees have been already been allocated. She said there was a need to develop our manpower and equip it with technology and sound scientific basis so as to develop our country and enable the manpower to get employment opportunities.

The prime minister referred to recent disinformation campaign about Gwadar and said neither Gwadar nor any part of Pakistan will be sold or leased out. She, however, said the country would welcome foreign investment for development and prosperity of the people.

She said the government has succeeded in persuading the United States to adopt an evenhanded approach to the issue of nuclear nonproliferation.

PRC Delegation Holds Talks on K-8 Aircraft

BK2401141095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high-level Chinese defense delegation led by the vice minister for aviation [title as heard], Mr. Wang Ang, held talks with Pakistani officials headed by the secretary of defense production, Mr. Mazhar Rafi. The delegation is visiting Pakistan in connection with the induction of K-8 [Karakoram-8] aircraft in Pakistan Air Force after completion of evaluation phase. The two sides expressed satisfaction over existing cooperation in the field of defense production. They were of the view that joint manufacturing of K-8 aircraft was manifestation of the understanding and cordiality the two countries have been enjoying.

Pakistan, in collaboration with China, has successfully developed a trainer jet aircraft Karakoram-8. A fleet of six aircraft will be inducted into Pakistan Air Force at a ceremony in Risalpur tomorrow. The K-8 is capable of providing both basic and advanced training. It has a speed of 800 km per hour and has an endurance of 3 hours and 15 minutes with internal fuel. By carrying additional fuel on its wings, the plane can fly more than four hours. K-8 has a modern two-place cockpit with American Garrett engine and is equipped with modern radar and navigational equipment.

The vice president of the aviation industry of China, Mr. Wang Ang, called on the chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, at the Joint Staff Headquarters. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Wang Ang also called on chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak. They held talks concerning close cooperation between Pakistan and China, especially in the development of the new jet trainer Karakoram-8.

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